

Grid integration of variable renewable energy

Voltage control with PV in distribution grids

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- 2003 – 2009: German Energy Agency; Project manager for grid integration of renewable energy and onshore / offshore wind energy; Chairman of the German Offshore Committee
- 1989 – 2003: Federal Environmental Agency; Scientific assistant for offshore wind energy, offshore gas / oil exploration, pulp and paper industry, life cycle assessment
- 1989: Graduated as Engineer Environmental Protection Technology at Technical University of Berlin



Learning objectives

- A participant who has met the objectives of the course will be able to develop an interactive training session to
 - explain fundamentals of photovoltaic inverter technology to convert direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC)
 - explain voltage control concepts with PV
 - explain fundamentals of protection settings with PV

Learning objectives

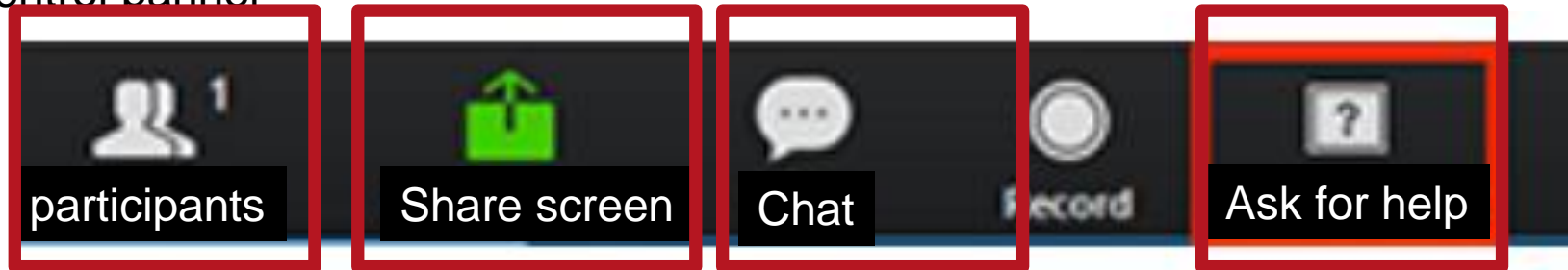
Interactive virtual classroom with breakout rooms for group work



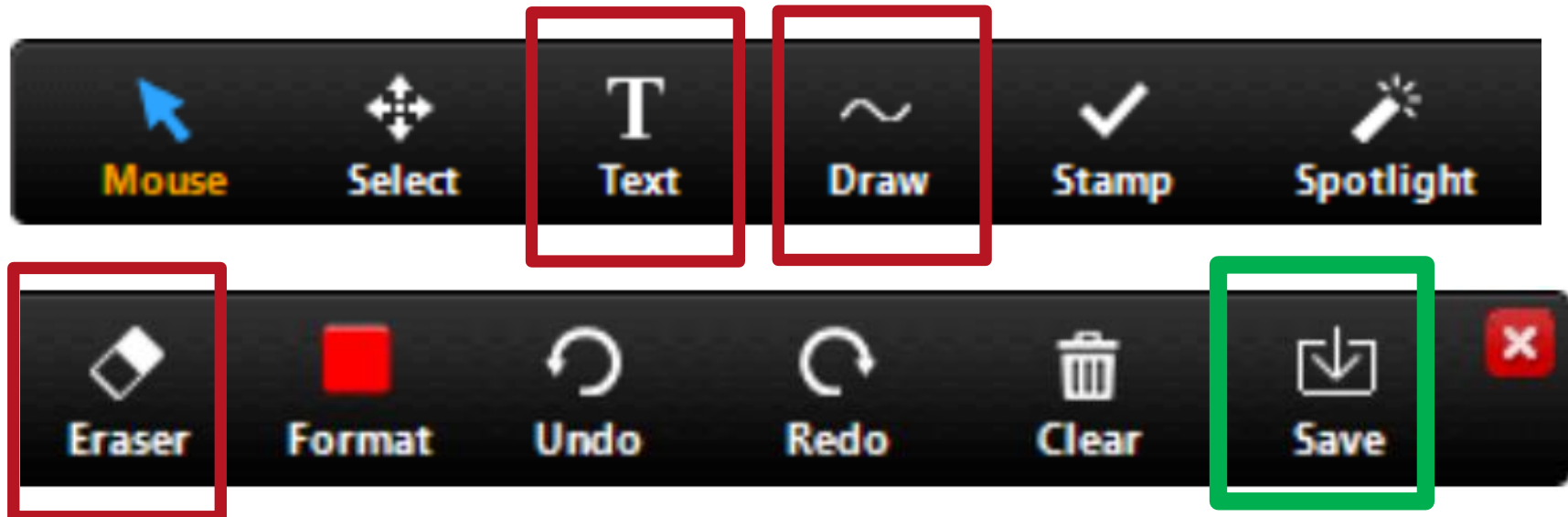
1. Lecture in the **virtual classroom** with all participants
2. The participants will move to **breakout rooms** for group exercise
 - Solve the exercises in your group
 - Use the whiteboard, use the chat
 - Don't forget to SAVE your results!
 - Every group chooses a presenter who presents the results in the classroom (share your screen)
3. The breakout rooms will end after a certain time and you will automatically be in the **virtual classroom** again
 - Participants present results in the virtual classroom with all participants
 - Discussion of results

Breakout room tools

- Control pannel



- Whiteboard



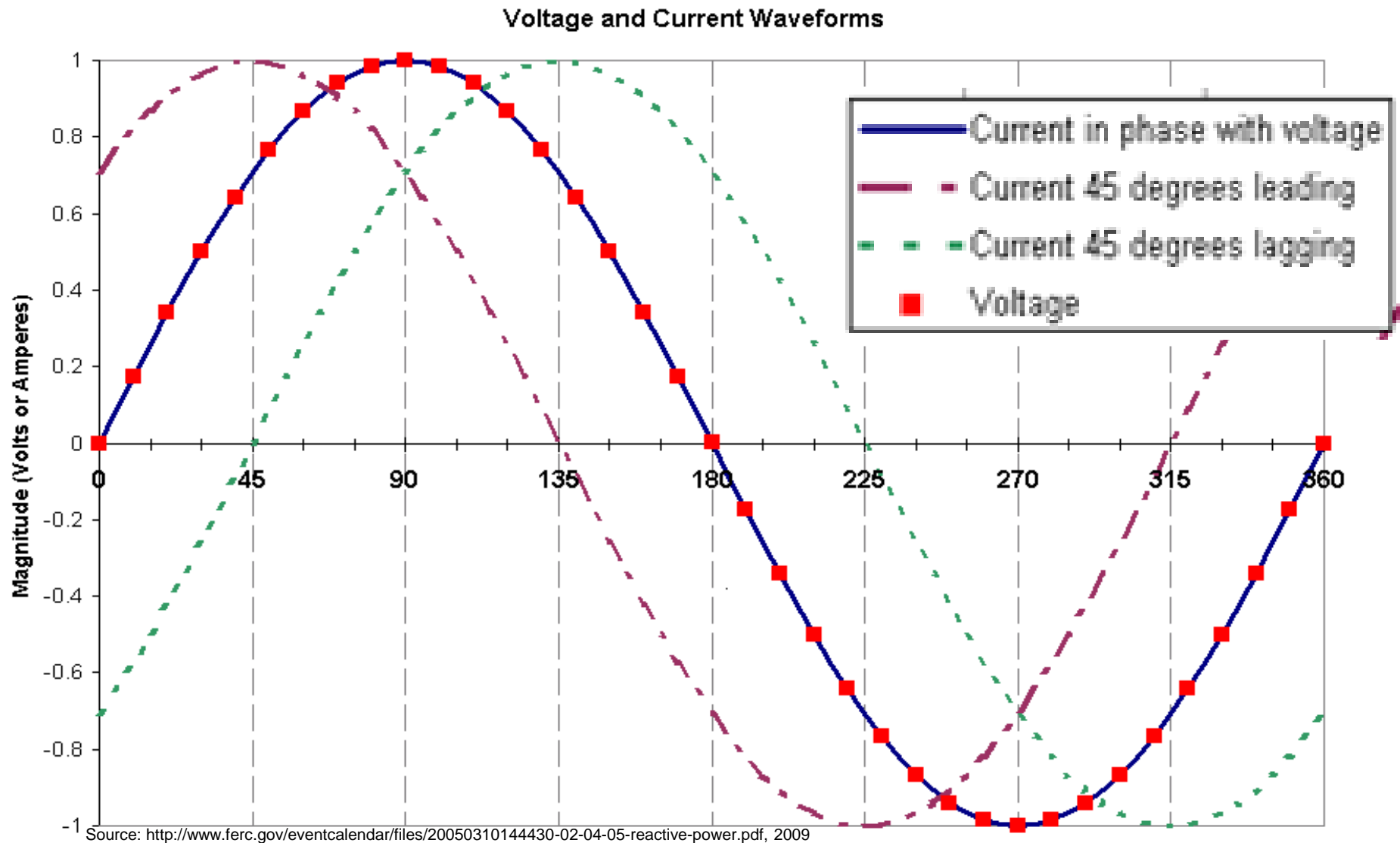
Voltage control concepts



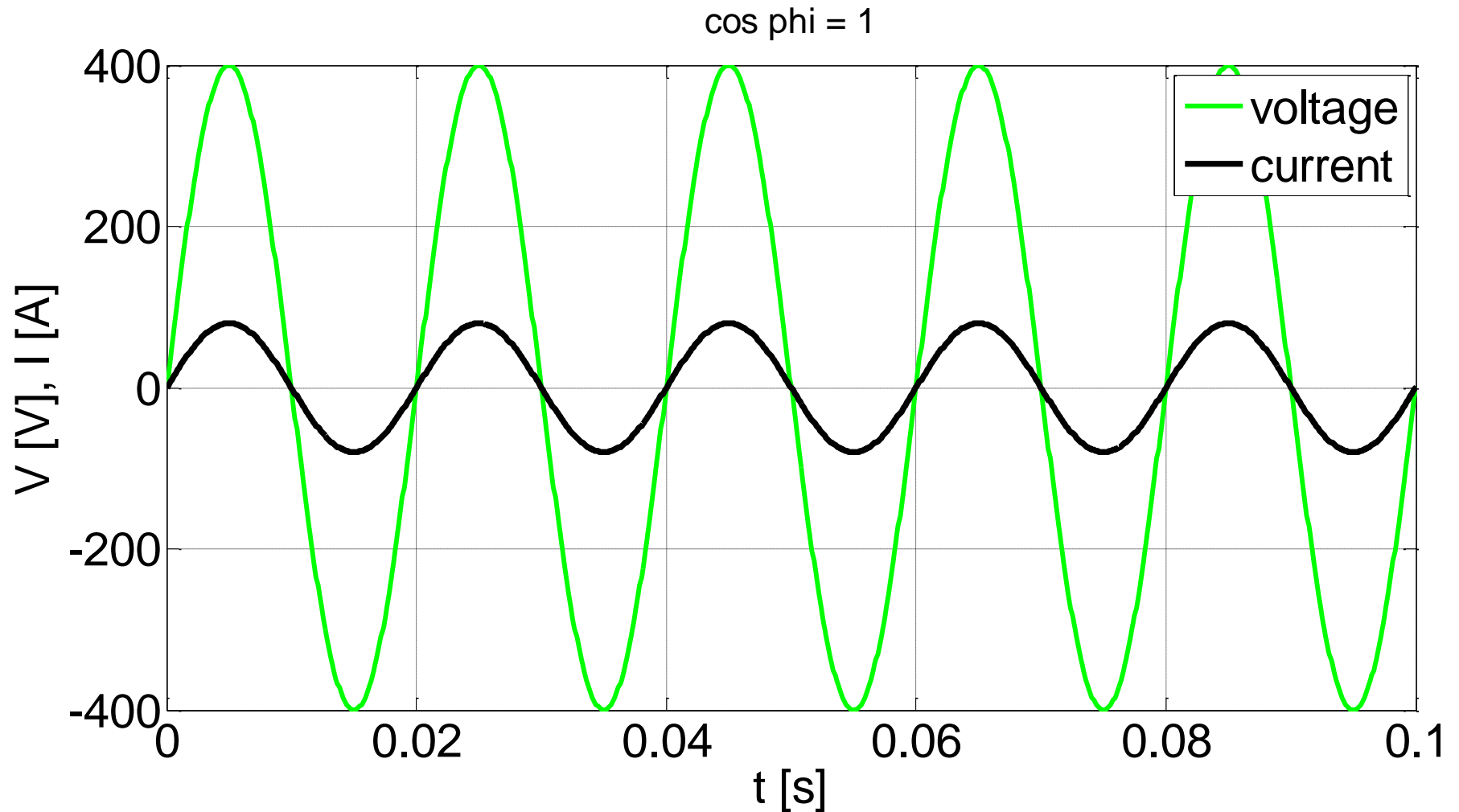
Theory - active and reactive power

- Active power
 - The component of electric power that performs work, typically measured in kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW), also known as 'real power'
 - The terms 'active' or 'real' are used to modify the base term 'power' to differentiate it from reactive power
 - Active power accomplishes useful work (e.g. runs motors and lights lamps)
- Reactive power
 - The portion of electricity that establishes and sustains the electric and magnetic fields of alternating-current equipment. Reactive power must be supplied to most types of magnetic equipment, such as motors and transformers
 - Reactive power is provided by generators, synchronous condensers, or electrostatic equipment such as capacitors. It directly influences electric system voltage
 - Kilovolt-amperes reactive (kVAR) or megavolt-ampere reactive (MVAR)

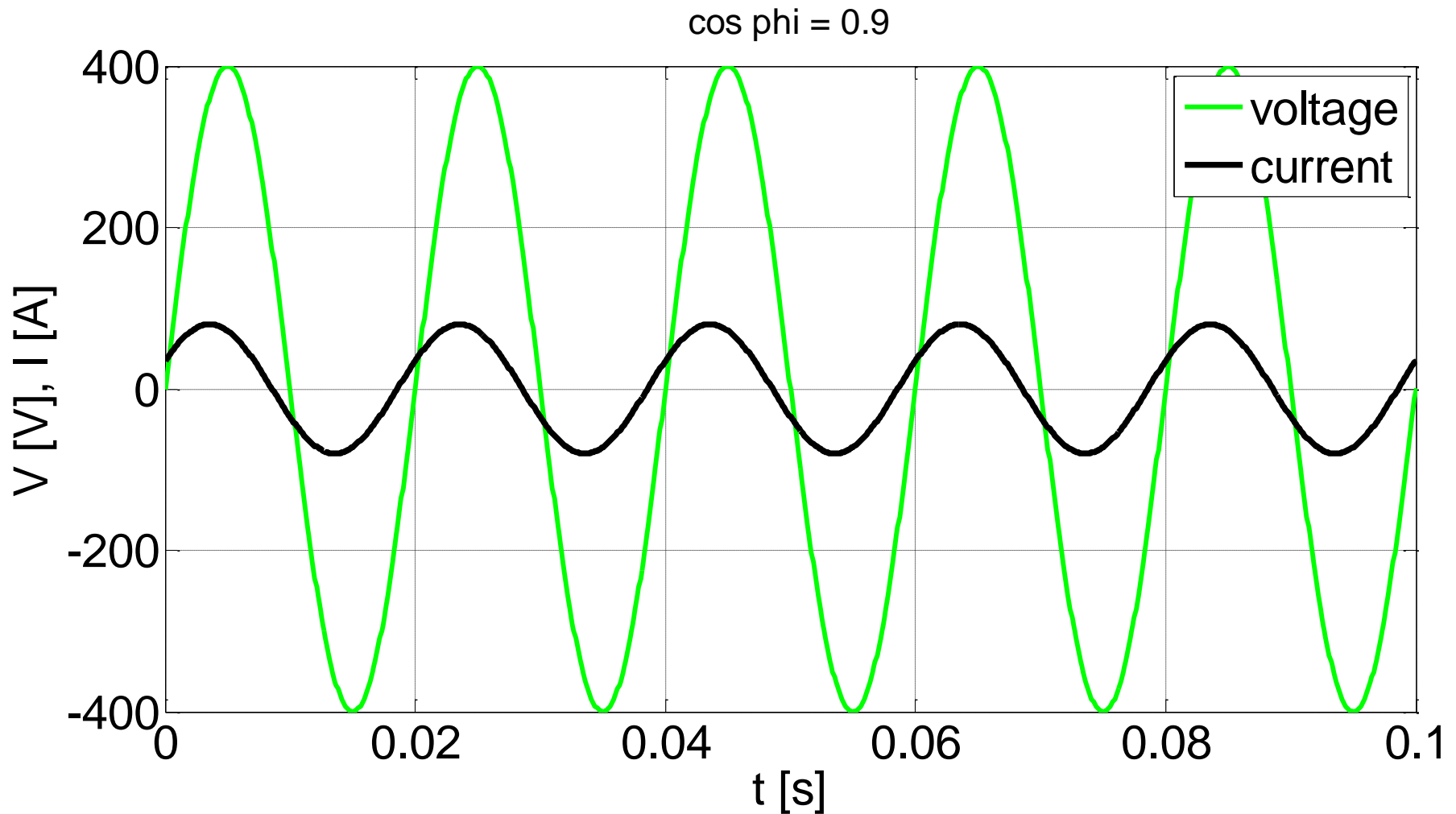
Theory - voltage and current phase relationship



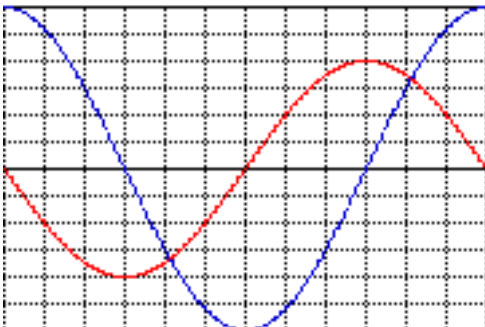
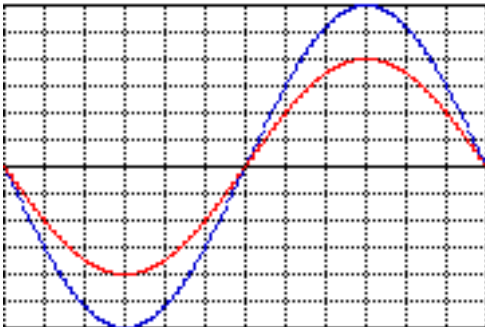
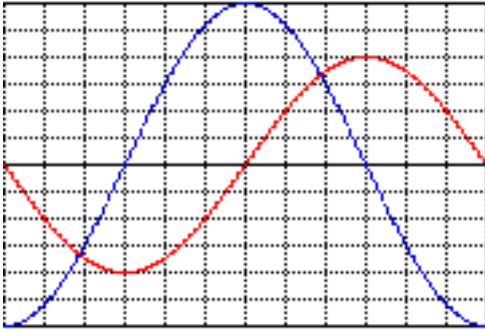
What does reactive power injection mean?



What does reactive power injection mean?



Exercise: Voltage and current phases



■ Which diagram shows:

☐ Current in phase with voltage

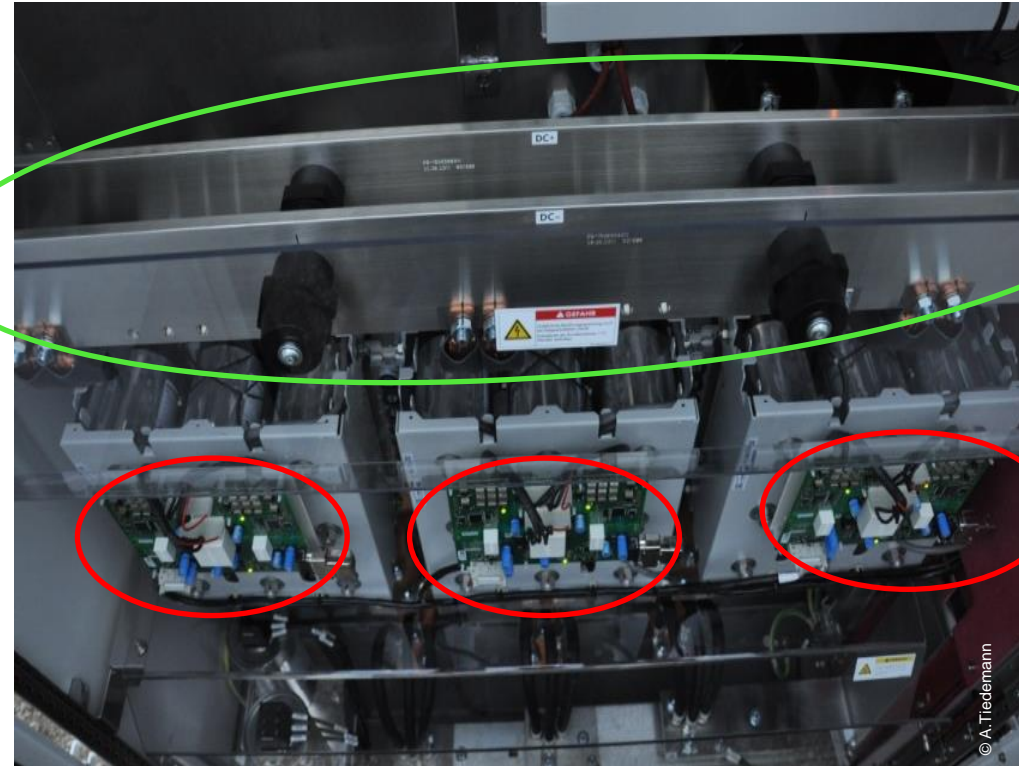
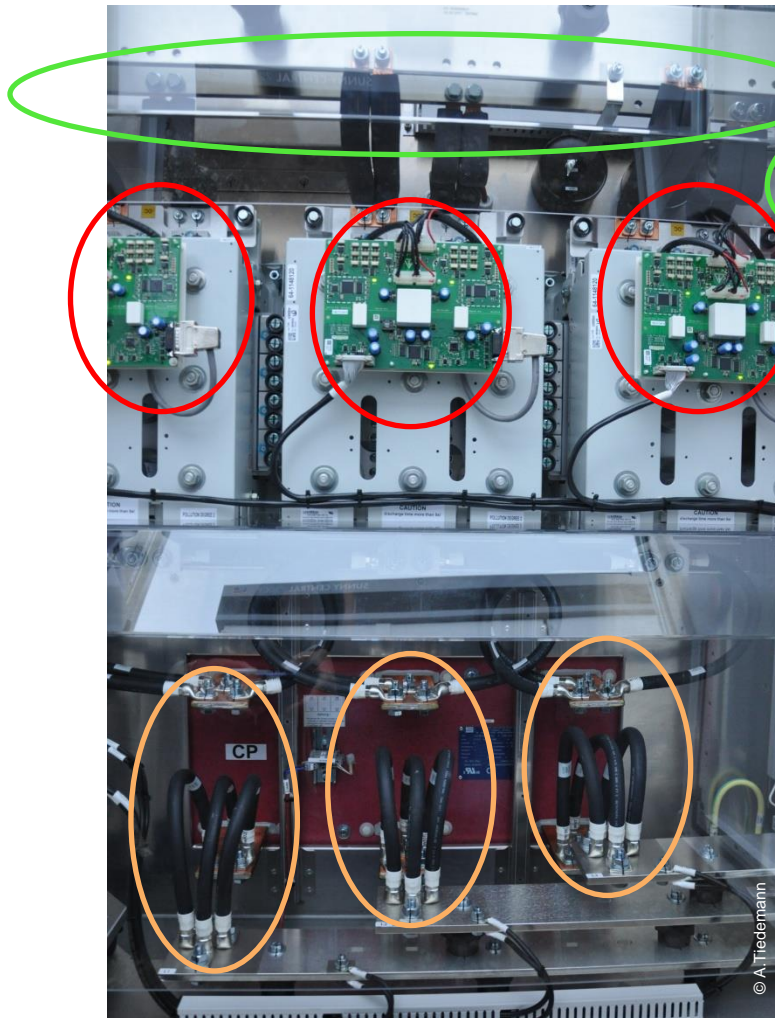
☐ Current leading the voltage

☐ Current lagging the voltage

Inverter technology - voltage control



Central SMA inverter: Direct current (DC), IGBTs (insulated gate bipolar transistor) and alternating current (AC)



DC input to IGBT

IGBT (insulated-gate bipolar transistor)

AC output from IGBT

3 Phase converter design - from DC do AC

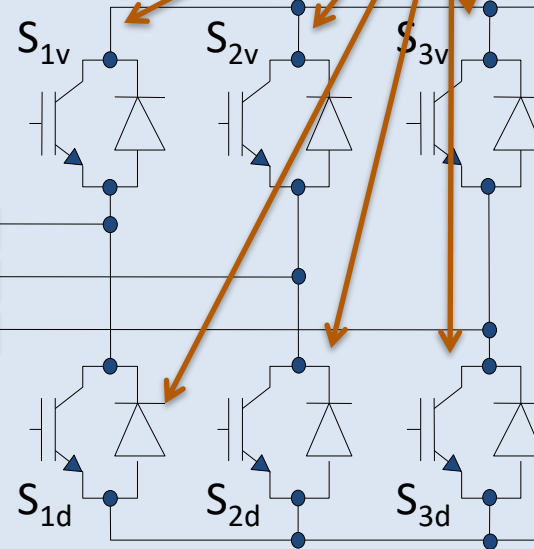
IGBT (insulated-gate bipolar transistor) + diode

3 AC phases

3 filter chokes*

L_1
 L_2
 L_3

L_F



Capacitor

C_d

V_d

DC-voltage
from PV

*Filter chokes for
harmonics reduction
and reactive power
control

**Converter
AC Connection**

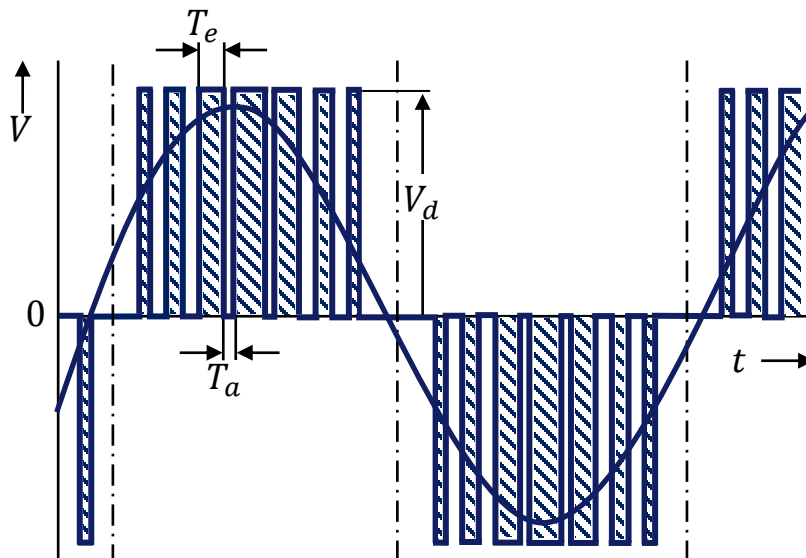
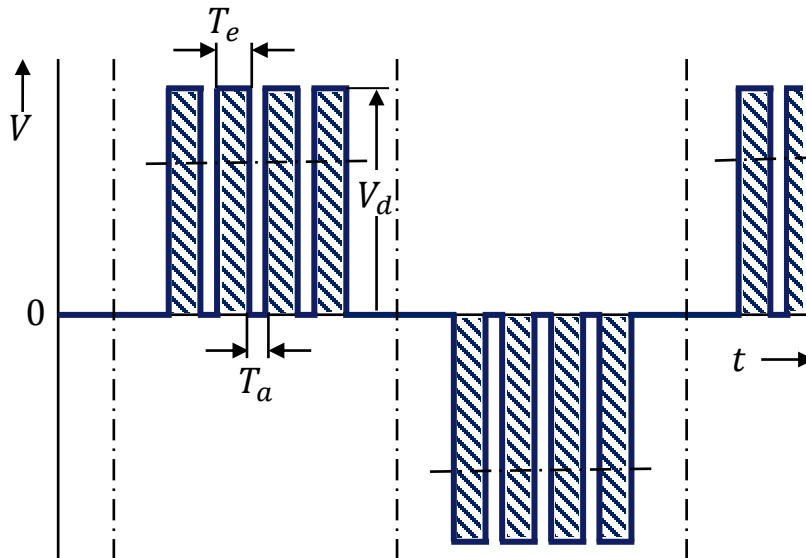
Converter

**Converter
DC Connection**

Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2017

Fundamental Voltage in Pulse Wide Modulation (PWM)

– from DC to AC

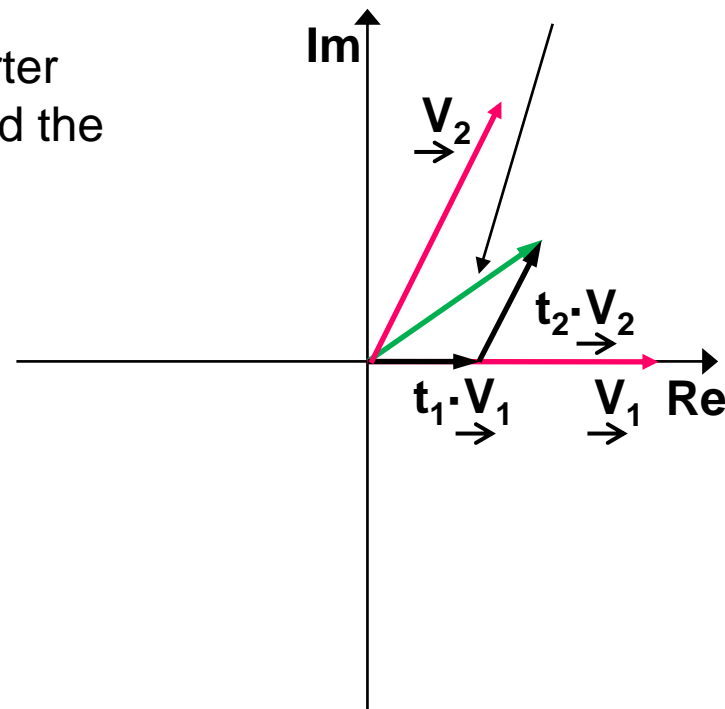


- Switched on: T_e
- Switched off: T_a
- $T_e + T_a = T$
- Rectangular voltage blocks with frequency $1/T$
- Length of pulse changes voltage time area
- The longer switched on, the bigger voltage time area
- With pulse width modulation for every time step T effective voltage V_{C1} can be every voltage between $+V_d$ and $-V_d$
- Fundamental sinewave $V_{C,1}$ realizable

Source: Heumann: Grundlagen der Leistungselektronik
Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2017

Example: Control of amplitude and phase of voltage

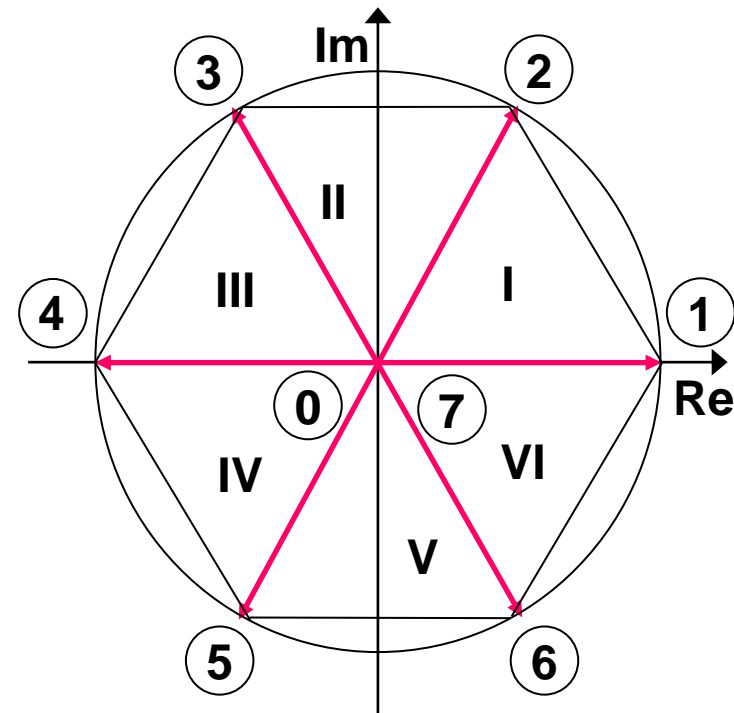
- Phase and amplitude control of voltage with space vectors and switching times t_1 and t_2
 - The converter calculates the switching time t_1 and t_2 for a given setpoint.
 - For every time step the inverter can control the amplitude and the angle of the voltage.
 - t_1 : Operation time vector V_1
 - t_2 : Operation time vector V_2
- Set point vector



Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2017

3 Phase Space Vectors

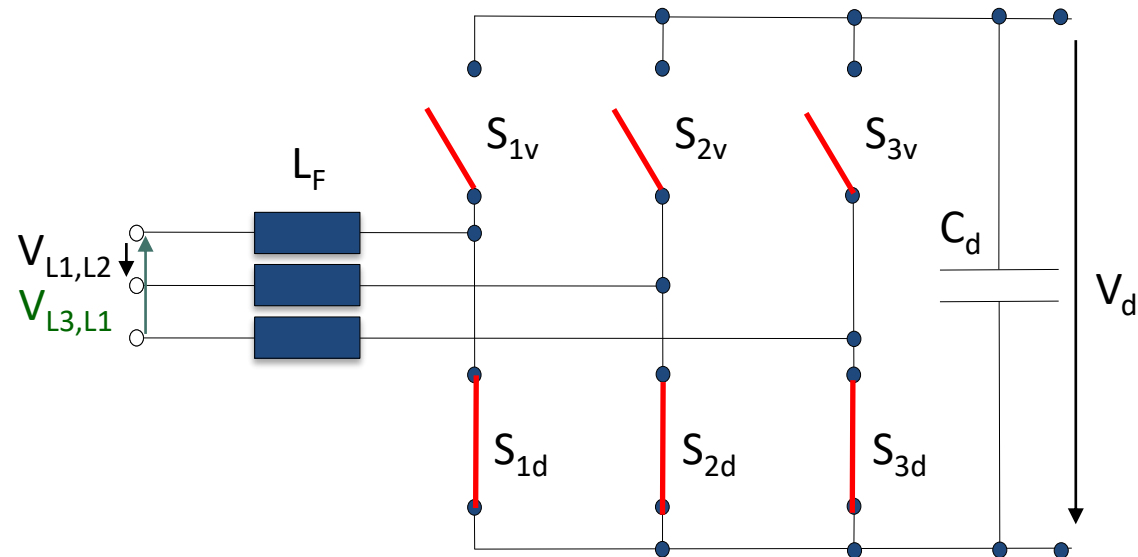
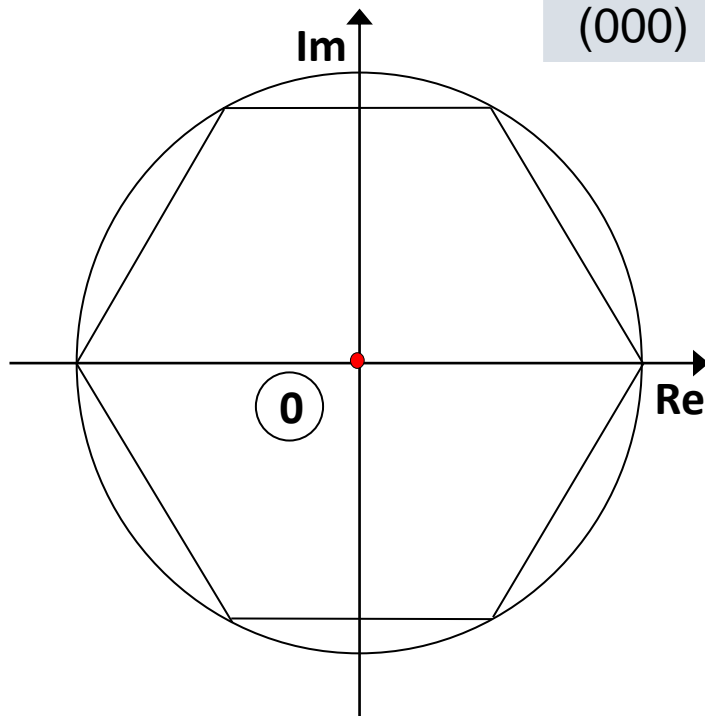
- Possible space vectors that a converter can produce by switching the IGBTs
- These space vectors are important to control the amplitude and the angle of the voltage.



Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2017

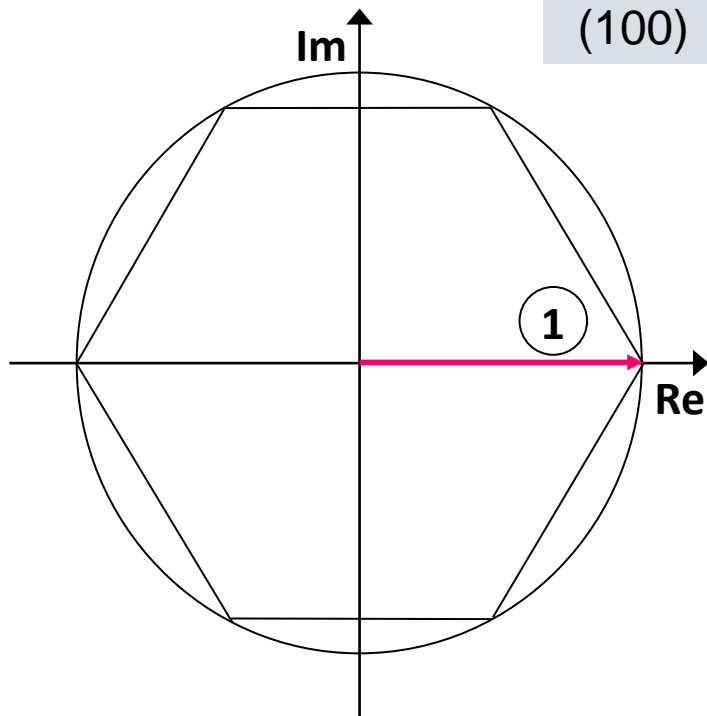
Space Vector (000) Zero Vector

Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(000)	0	0	0	-	-	-

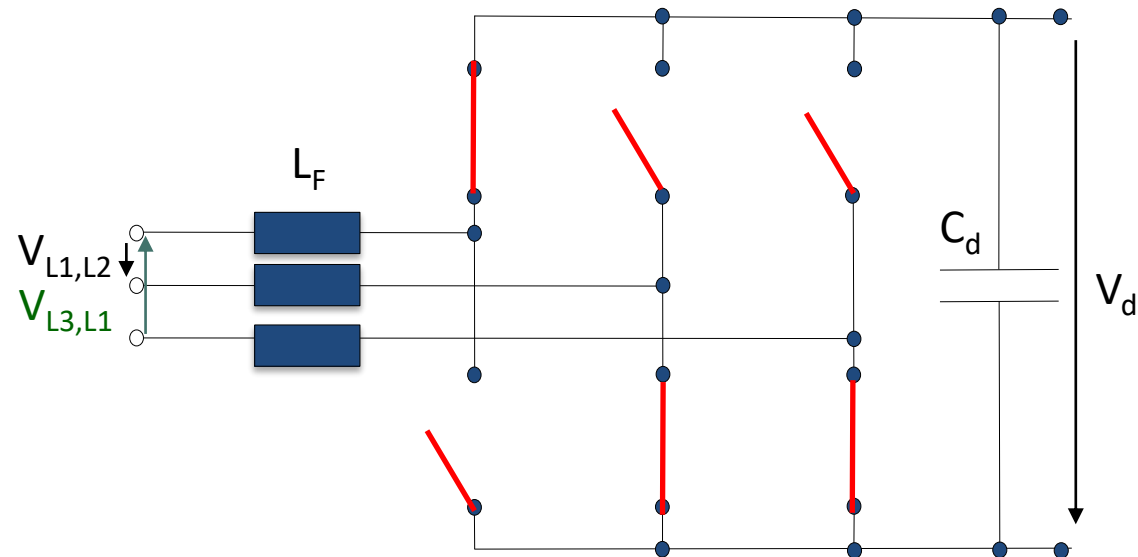


Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2018

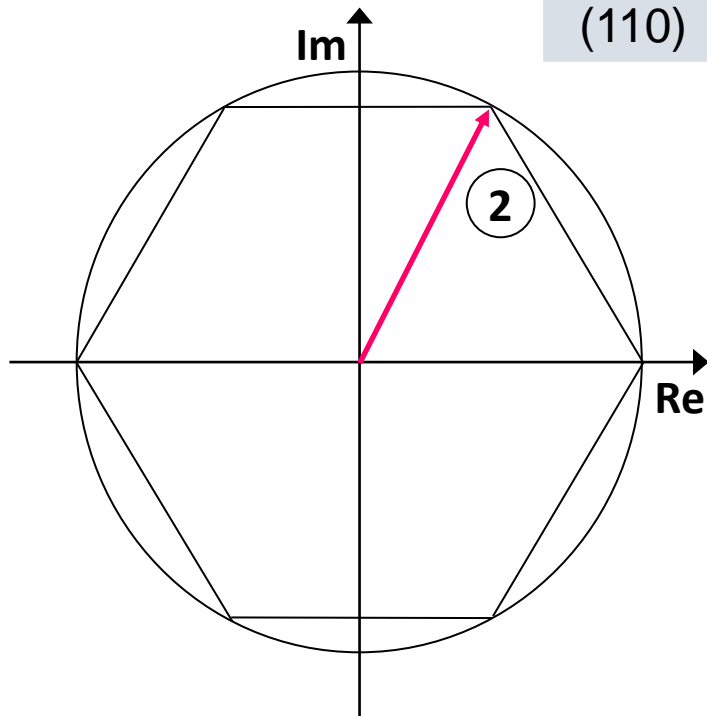
Space Vector (100) Zero Vector



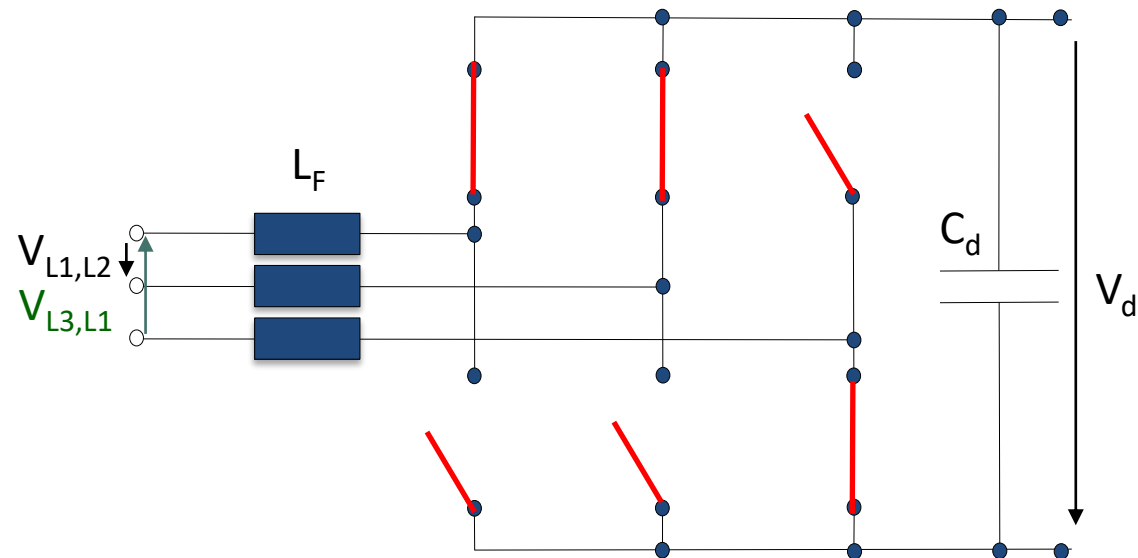
Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(100)	$+V_d$	0	$-V_d$	+	-	-



Space Vector (110) Zero Vector

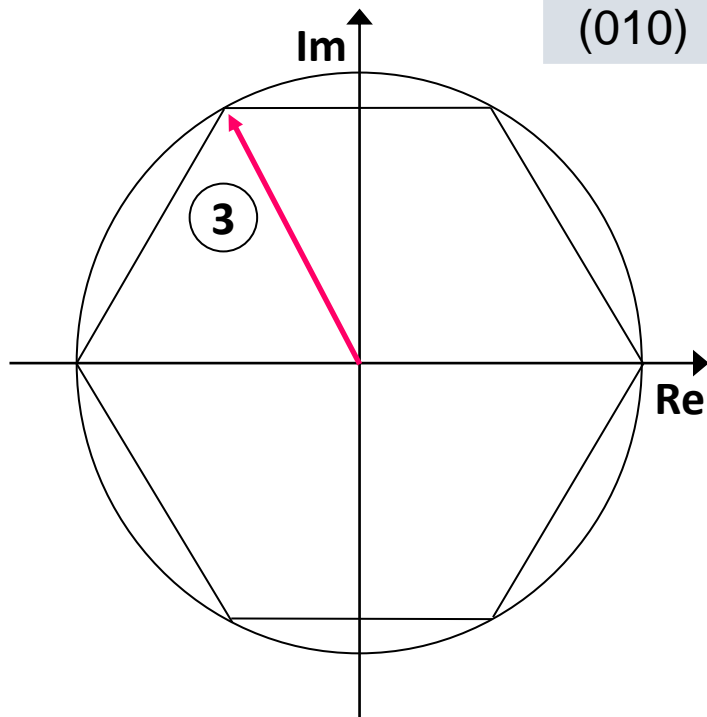


Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(110)	0	$+V_d$	$-V_d$	+	+	-

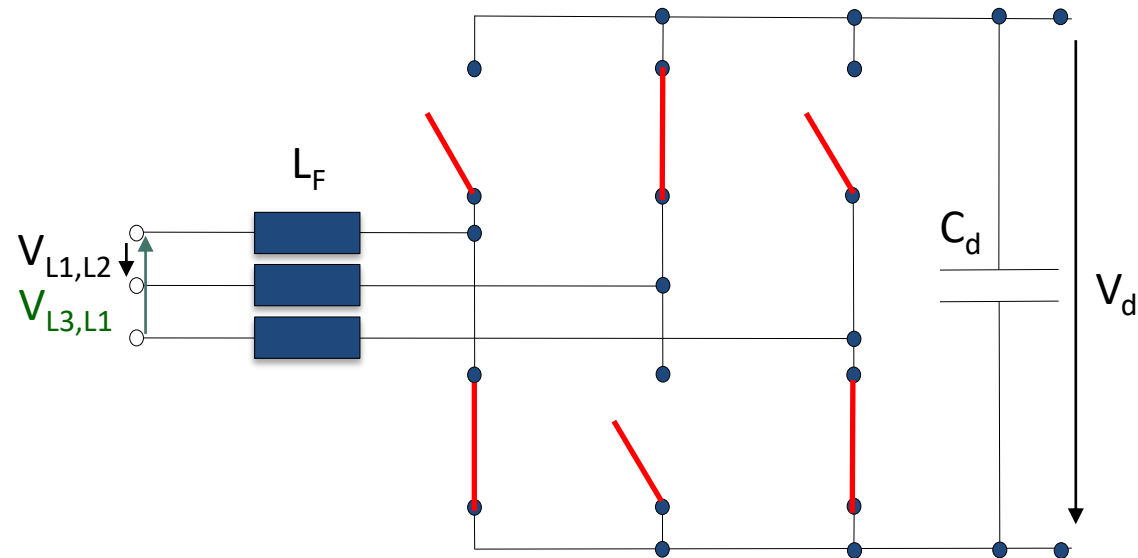


Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2018

Space Vector (010) Zero Vector



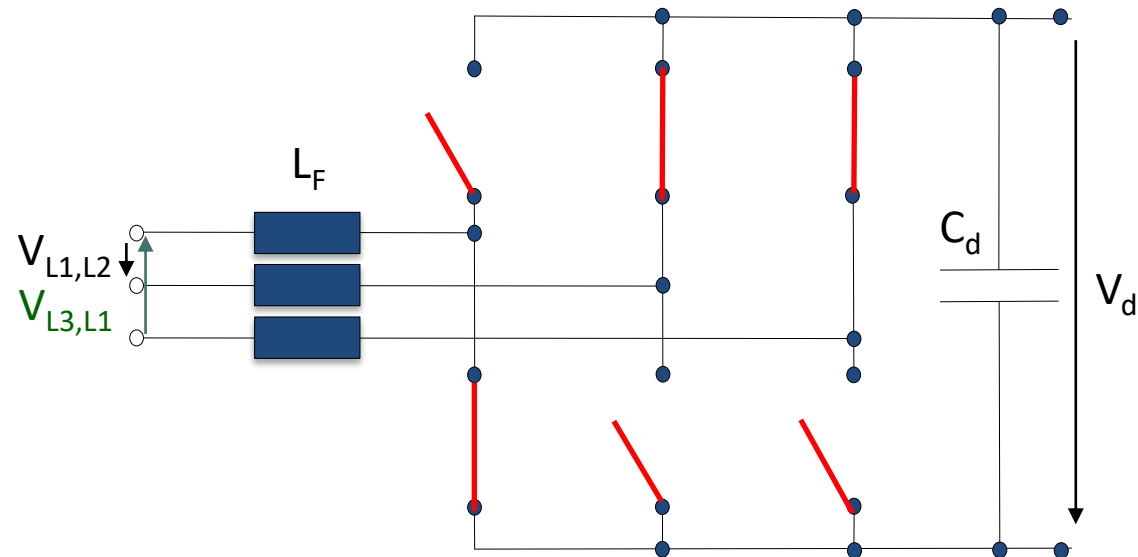
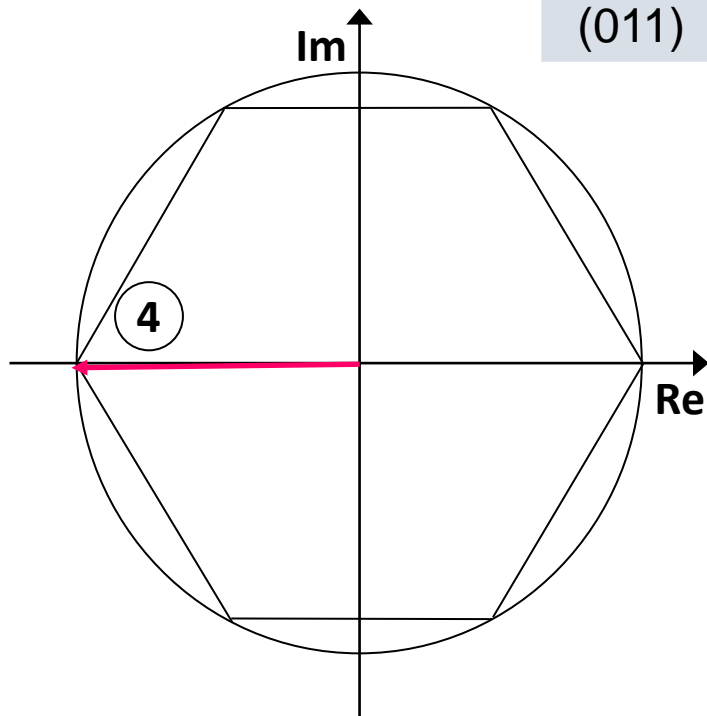
Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(010)	$-V_d$	$+V_d$	0	-	+	-



Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2018

Space Vector (011) Zero Vector

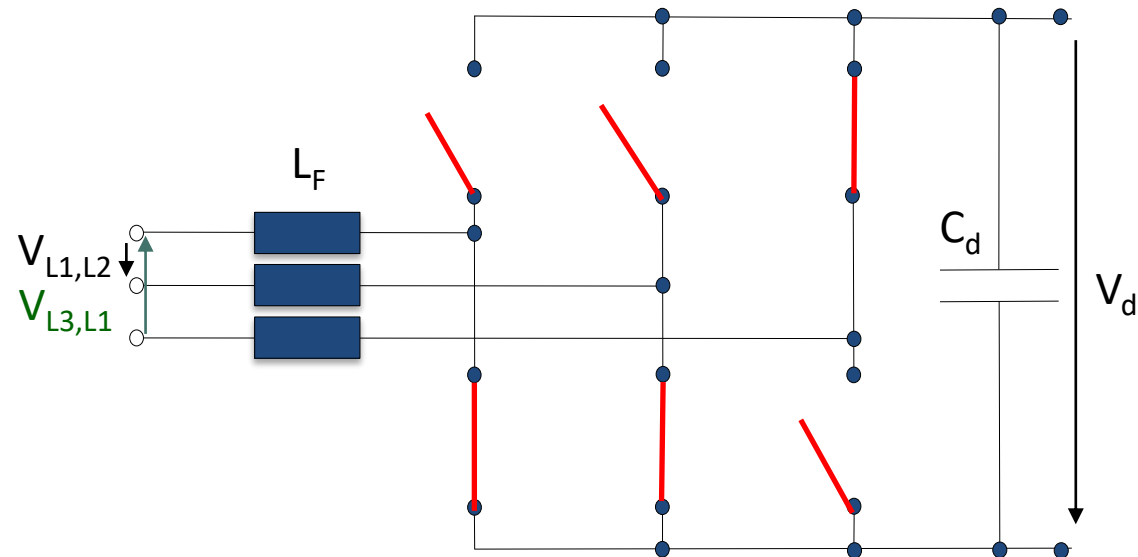
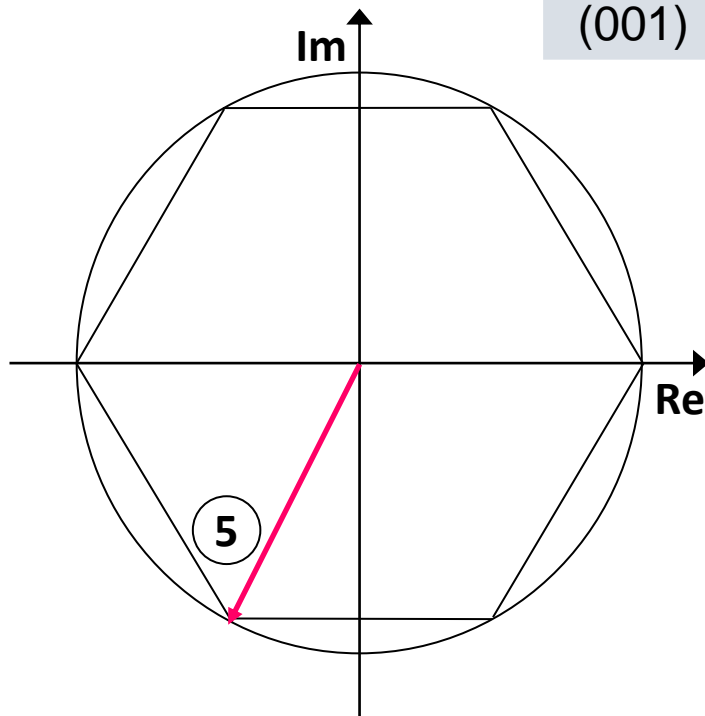
Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(011)	$-V_d$	0	$+V_d$	-	+	+



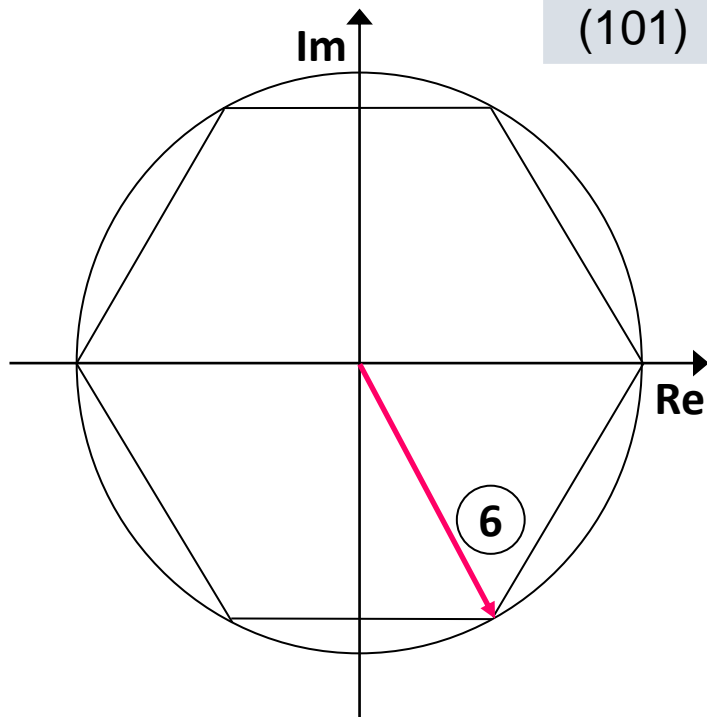
Source: CES Carstens Energy Consulting, 2018

Space Vector (001) Zero Vector

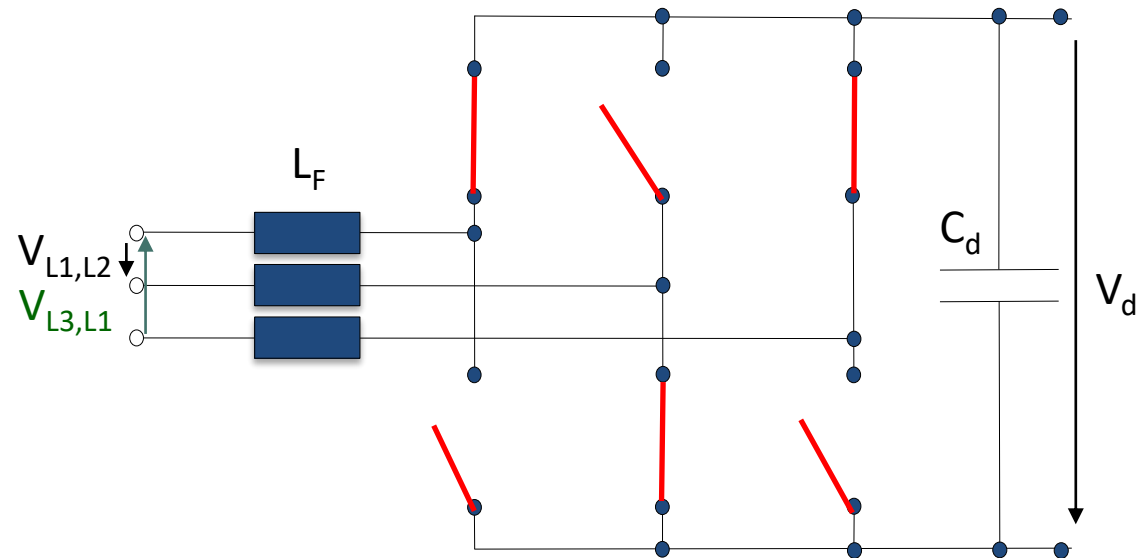
Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(001)	0	$-V_d$	$+V_d$	-	-	+



Space Vector (101) Zero Vector

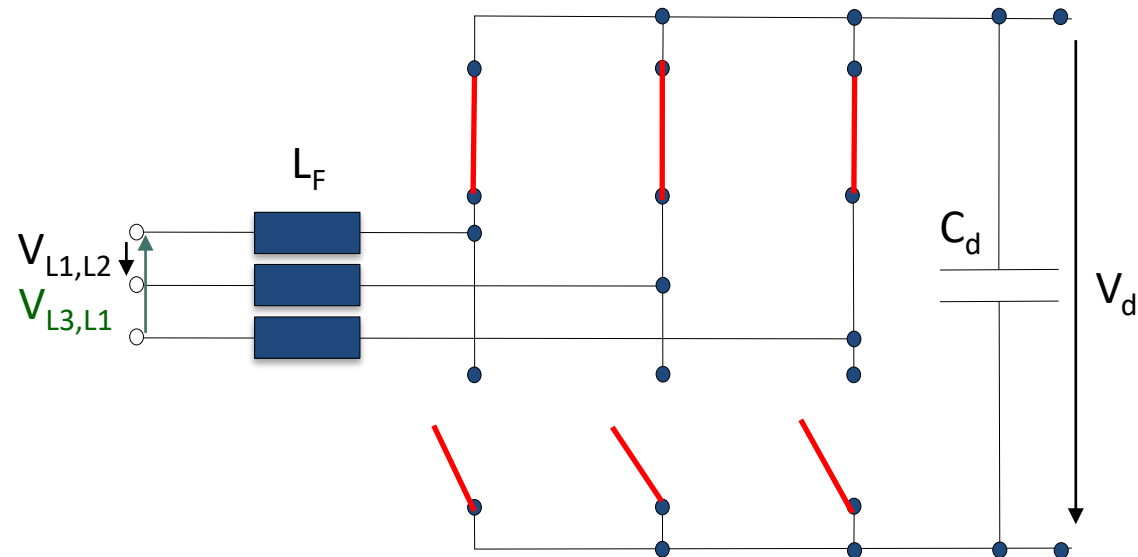
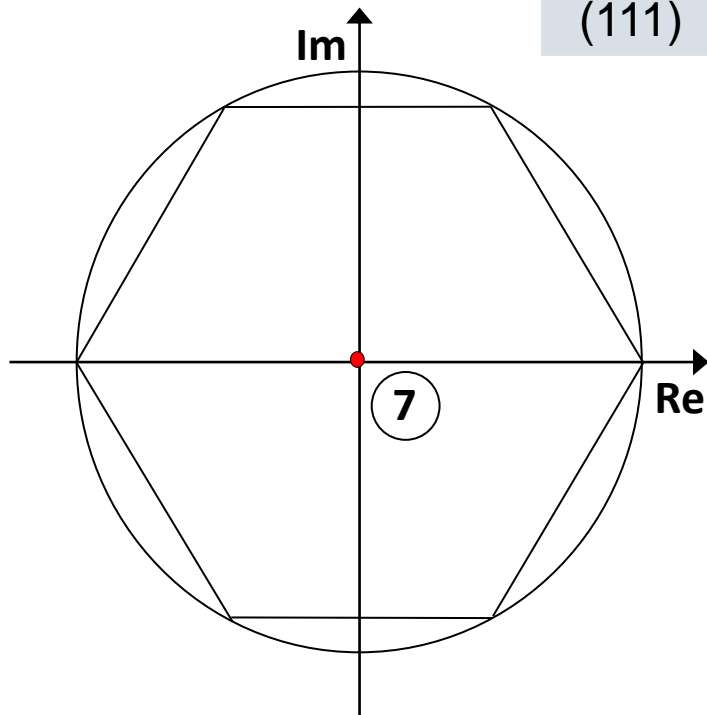


Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(101)	$+V_d$	$-V_d$	0	+	-	+



Space Vector (111) Zero Vector

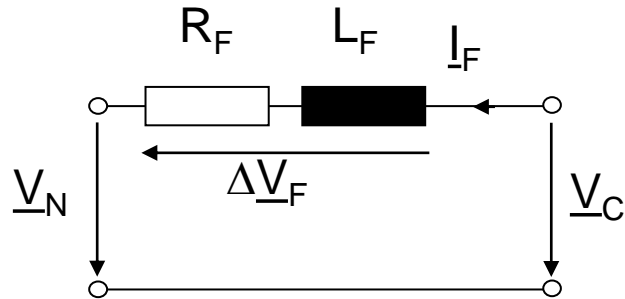
Space Vector	$V_{L1,L2}$	$V_{L2,L3}$	$V_{L3,L1}$	φ_{C1}	φ_{C2}	φ_{C3}
(111)	0	0	0	+	+	+



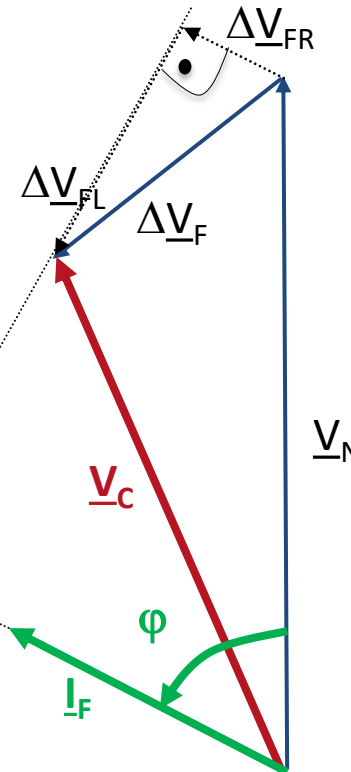
Inverter technology - current and reactive power control



Current control mechanism at filter choke

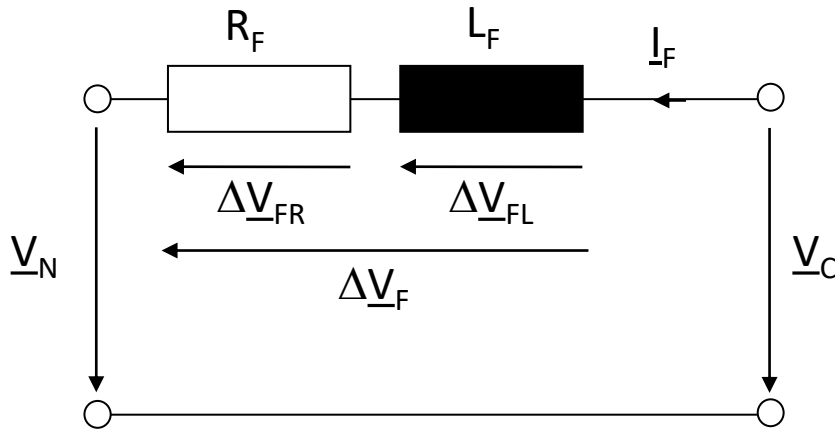


- Choke L_F consists of real and imaginary component
- Voltage $\underline{V}_N = \underline{V}_{L1,L2}$ is instantaneous value of electrical grid
- Voltage $\underline{V}_C = \underline{V}_{C1,2}$ is instantaneous value of converter
- Mesh equation:
 $\underline{V}_C = \underline{V}_N + \Delta \underline{V}_F$
- \underline{I}_F is 90 degrees lagging to imaginary component of $\Delta \underline{V}_F$ at L_F
- By control of \underline{V}_C by PWM instantaneous value of \underline{I}_F is controllable
- **Leading and lagging current is possible**
- **Magnitude of current is controllable**



\underline{V}_C =
 Converter
 voltage
 \underline{V}_N =
 Grid voltage
 \underline{I}_F =
 Current set
 point
 φ =
 Phase
 angle set
 point

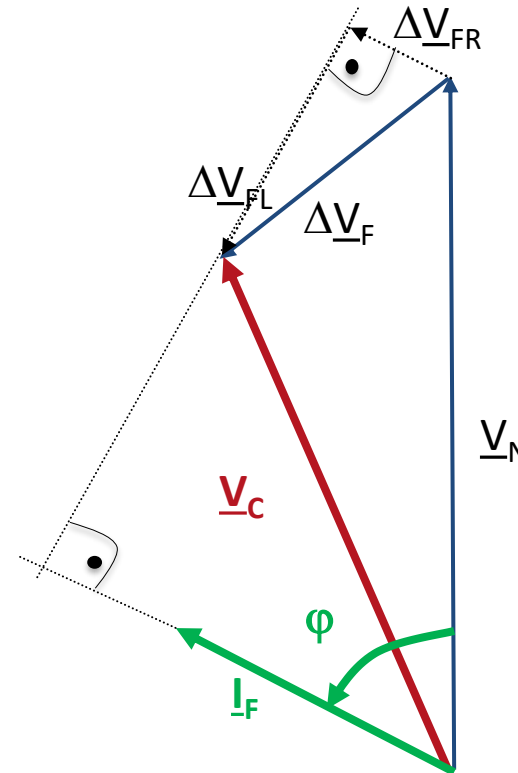
Current control I



- Mesh equation:

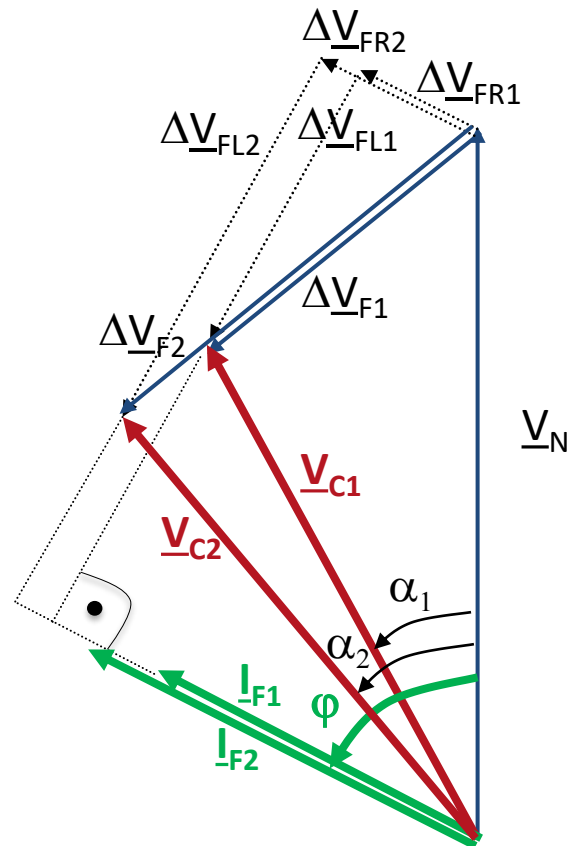
$$\underline{V}_C = \Delta \underline{V}_{FL} + \underline{V}_N + \Delta \underline{V}_{FR}$$
- As differential equation:

$$V_C(t) = L_F \frac{di_F(t)}{dt} + V_N(t) + R_F i_F(t)$$



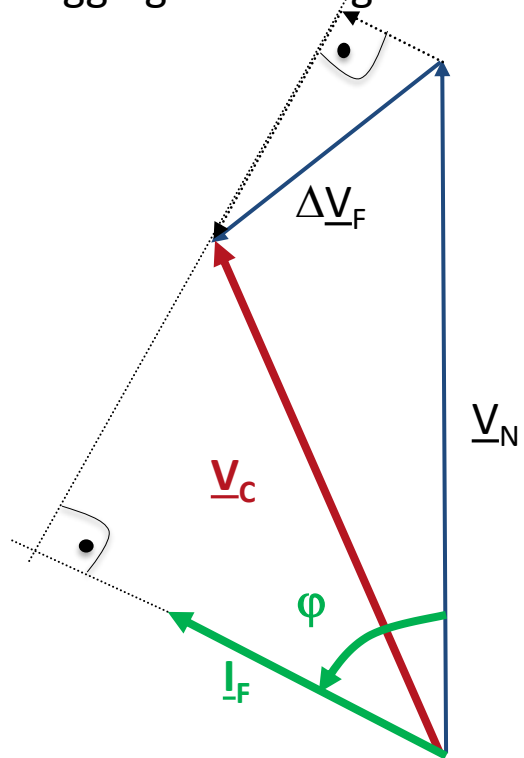
\underline{V}_C =
 Converter
 voltage
 \underline{V}_N =
 Grid voltage
 \underline{I}_F =
 Current set
 point
 φ =
 Phase
 angle set
 point

- Same current phase but different amplitude

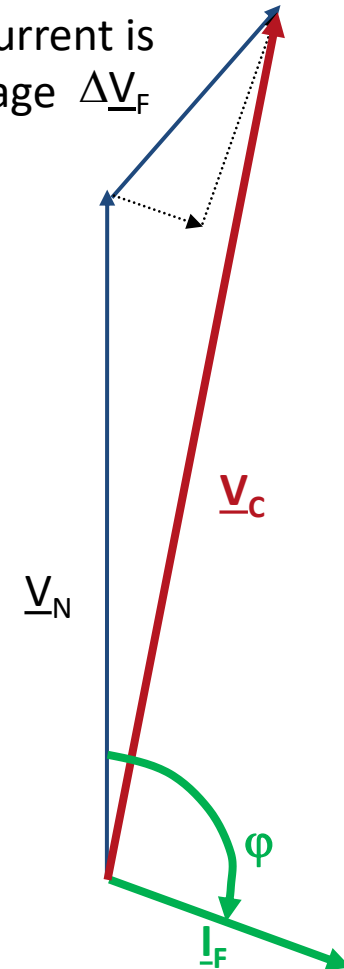


\underline{V}_C =
Converter
voltage
 \underline{V}_N =
Grid voltage
 \underline{I}_F =
Current set
point
 ϑ =
Phase
angle set
point

Inductive current: Current is lagging the voltage



Capacitive current: Current is leading the voltage $\Delta \underline{V}_F$



Static voltage control

Learning objectives

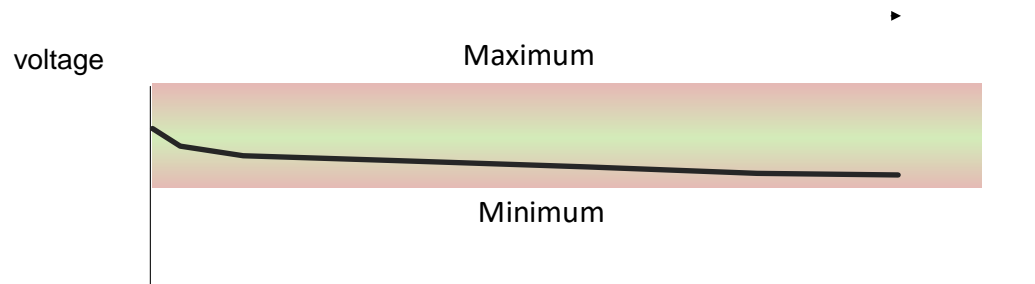
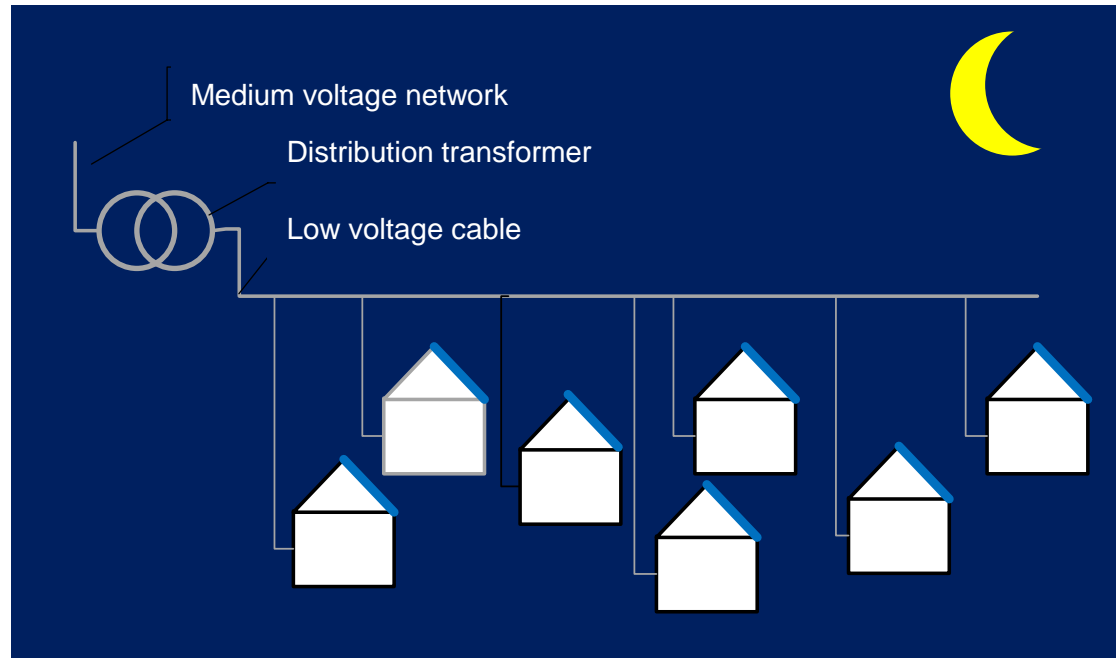
- After this lecture you will be able to
 - Name options for reactive power management with rooftop PV
 - Define power generating system (PGs) and power generating unit (PGU)
 - Explain rooftop PV reactive power generation $Q(P)$ in low voltage grid
 - Explain rooftop PV reactive power generation $Q(V)$ in low voltage grid
 - Distinguish benefits / drawbacks of influencing voltage by reactive power control

Learning objectives

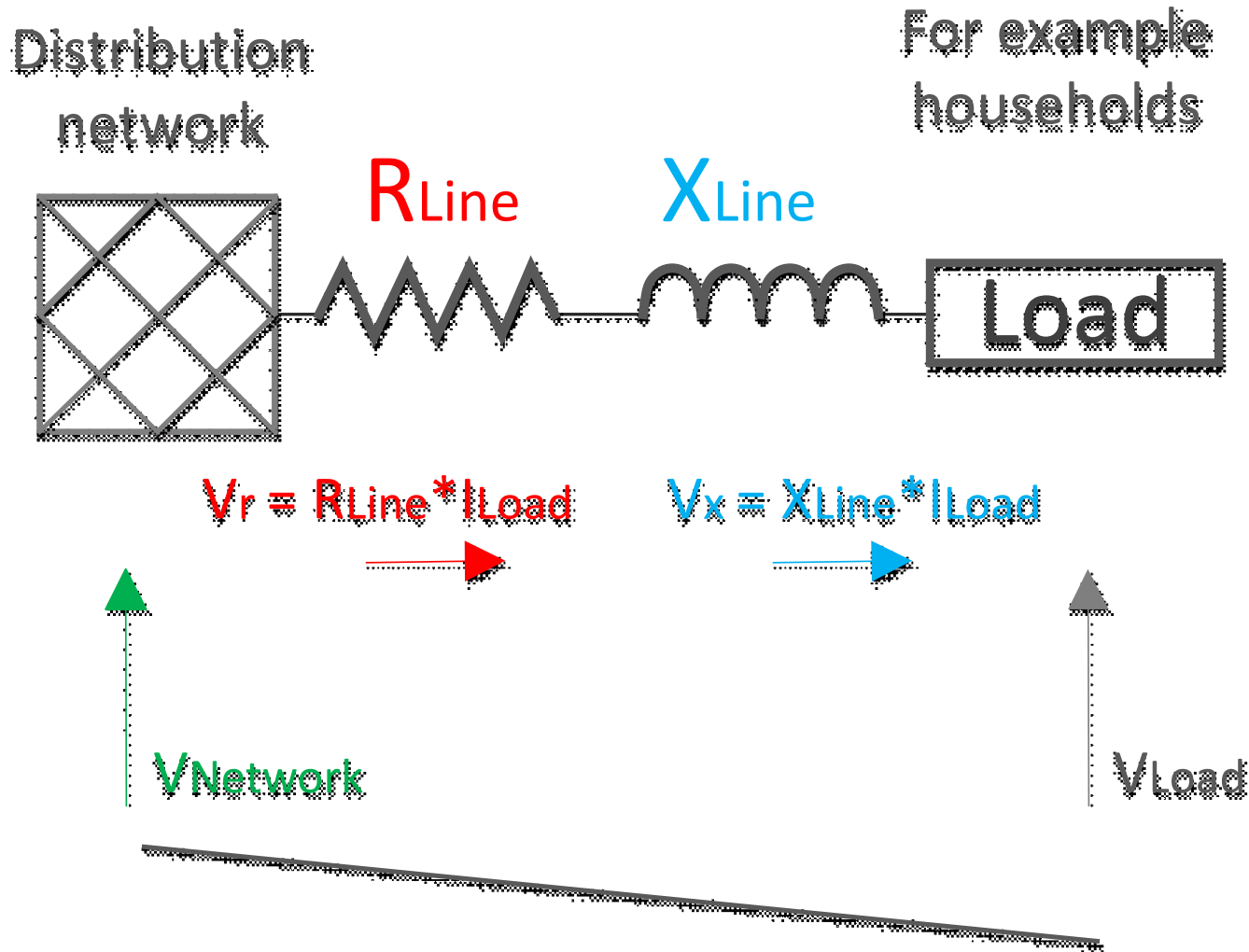
Example: rooftop PV in low voltage distribution network – night.

The tolerated voltage range may not be violated, regardless operational conditions.

Voltage at distribution transformer is set to a fixed value guaranteeing minimum voltage at the end of the line.



The current running via line resistance R and reactance X decreases voltage at the end of the line.



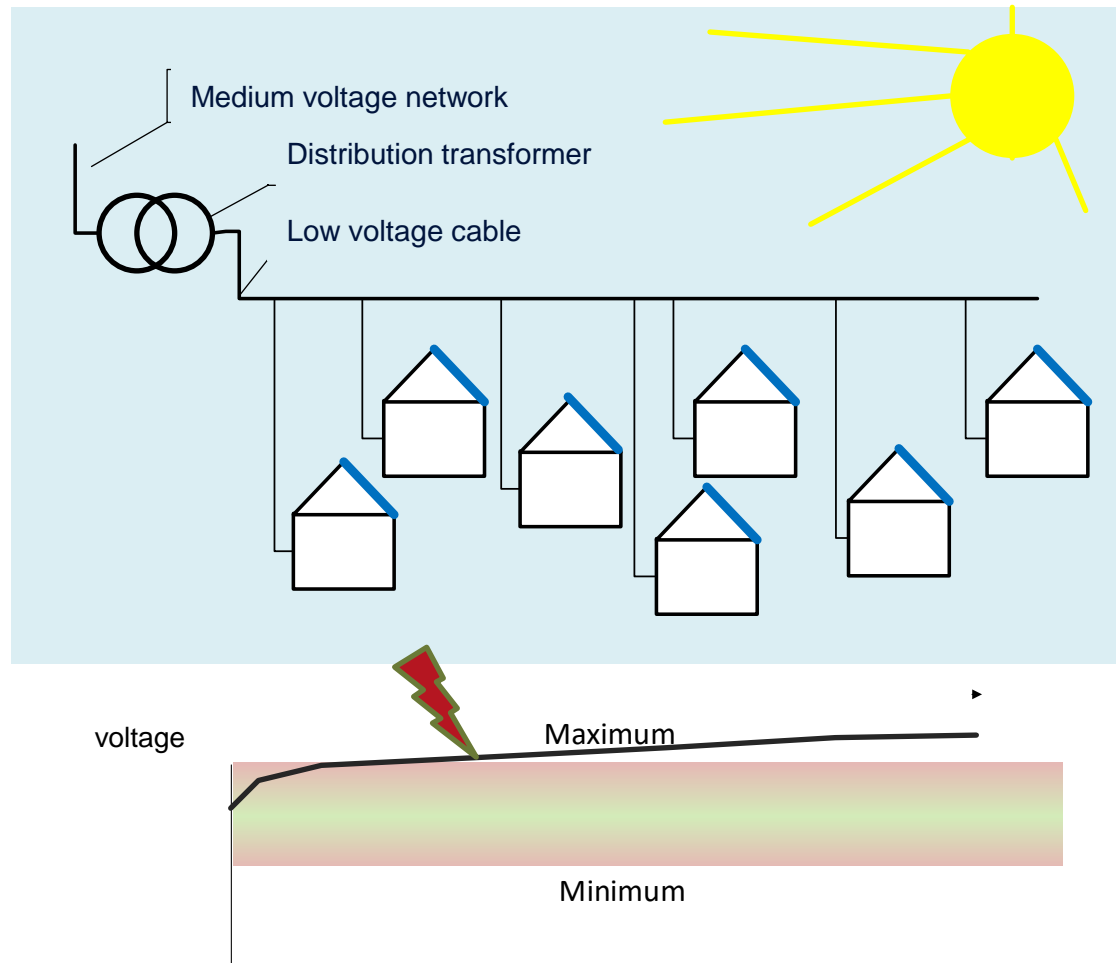
Example: rooftop PV in low voltage distribution network – day.

In case of high feed in from PV this voltage setting violates tolerances at the end of the line.

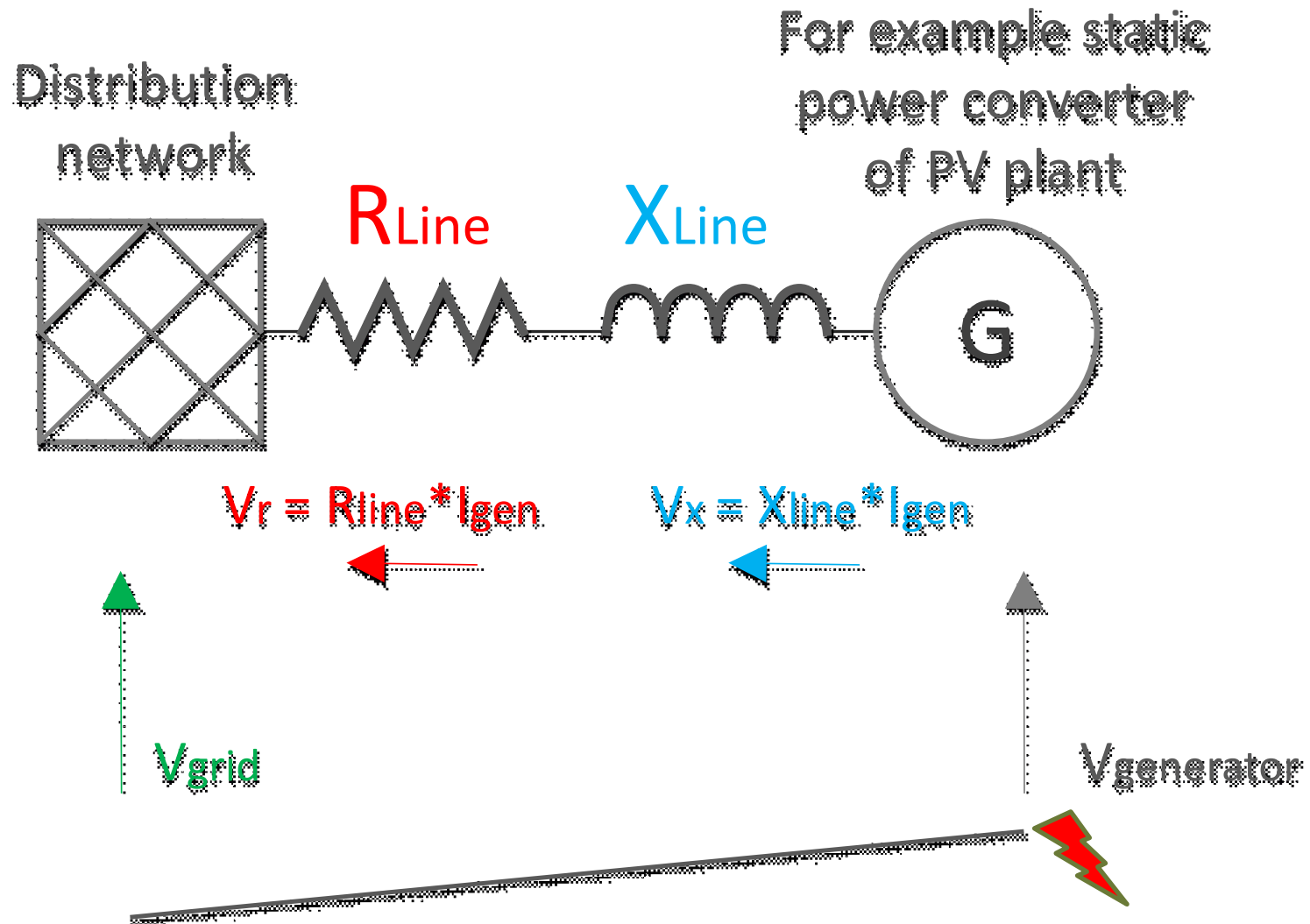
Load as well as PV generation are fluctuating. The voltage ranges become wider.

Effects in meshed networks (HV, EHV) with wind and or PV are similar.

However, more options exist to control voltage.



The current running via line resistance R and reactance X decreases voltage at the end of the line



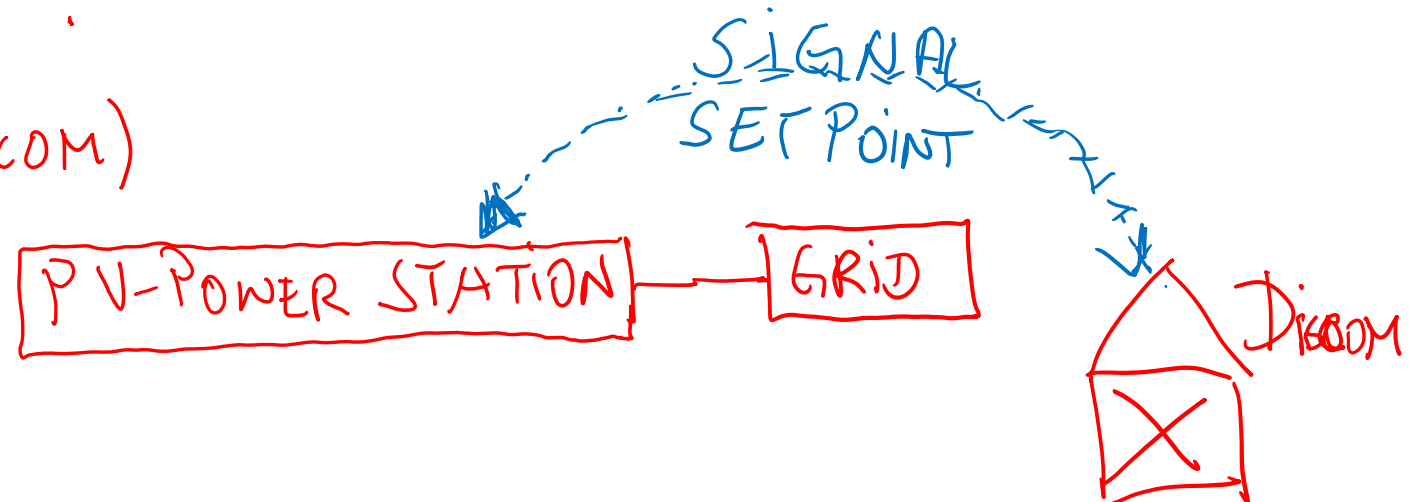
Options to handle overvoltage in distribution grids

- Tolerated voltage levels may be violated by active power injection of distributed generators. This restricts feed in capacity.
- The simple alternatives are:
 - Curtailment of power infeed when voltage is too high.
→ Lost income for the owner of the generation plant and less clean energy.
 - Network reinforcement, step transformers, reducing the line resistance.
→ Extra investments for the owner of the network assets.
 - Reactive power management with distributed generation.
→ Use the features of modern PV inverters.

- $Q = \text{constant}$ $Q = \text{reactive power}$
- $Q(P)$ Q DEPENDS OF ACTIVE POWER FEED-IN
- $Q(V)$ INVERTER MEASURES VOLTAGE AT GRID CONNECTION POINT AND CHANGES Q ACCORDINGLY



- $Q(\text{discom})$



Monitoring system for PV (and other power plants connected to the grid)

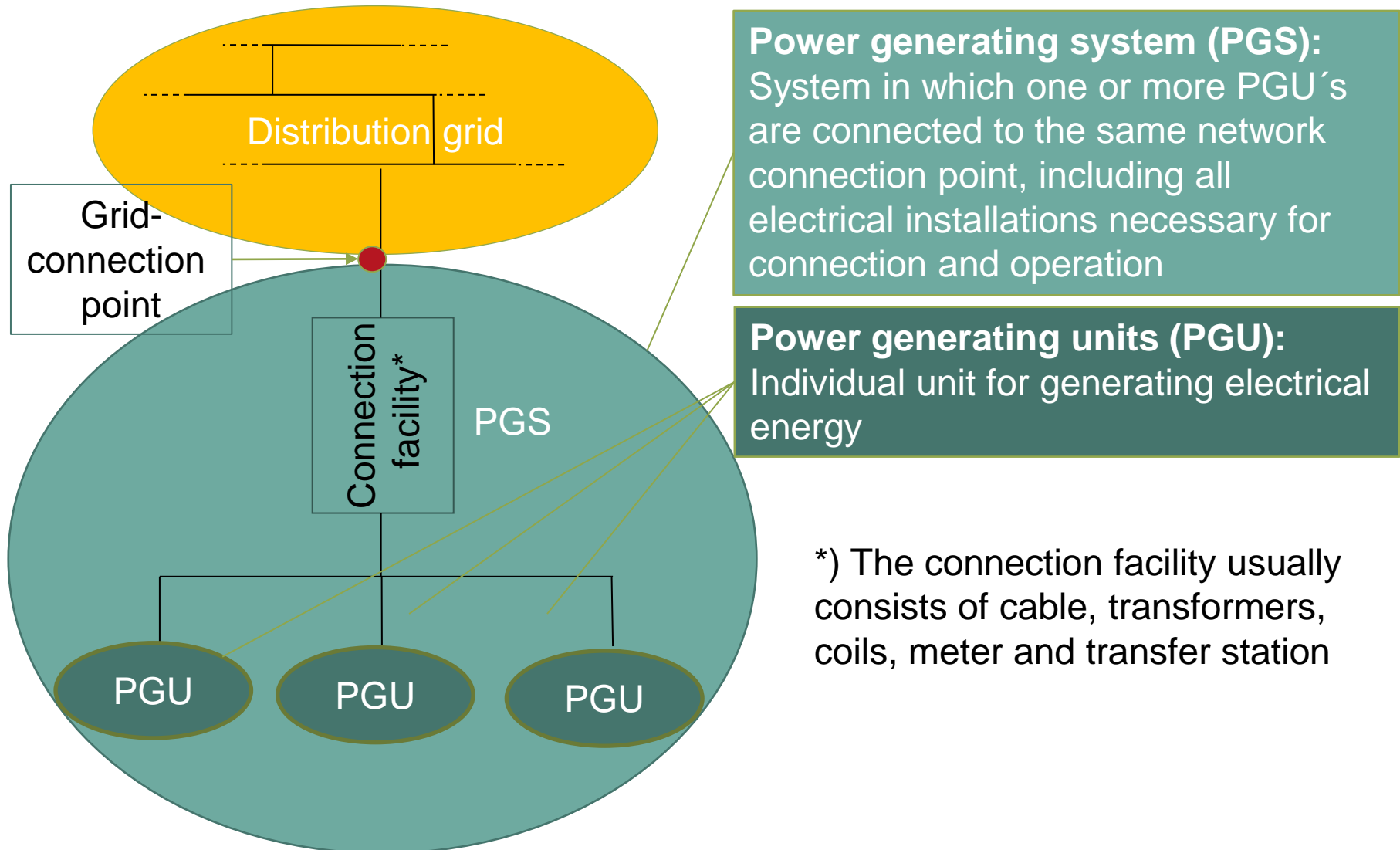
Installed capacity	Fixed reduction of PV power generation in relation to installed capacity	Grid operator can reduce PV power feed-in	Real time PV feed-in data for grid operators	Additional data (plant, planning, non-usability, real time) ²⁾
7 - 25 kW ¹⁾	< 70% installed kW or remote control ¹⁾		---	partly required
25 kW – 100 kW	---	required ¹⁾	required ¹⁾	partly required
100 kW – 1 MW	---	required	required	partly required
> 1 MW	---	required	required	required

Sources:

1) EEG 2021, §9 Nr. 2

2) Bundesnetzagentur, Beschlusskammer 6 „Festlegungsverfahren zur Informationsbereitstellung für Redispatch-Maßnahmen (BK6-20-061) – Anlage „Informationsbereitstellung für Redispatch-Maßnahmen“

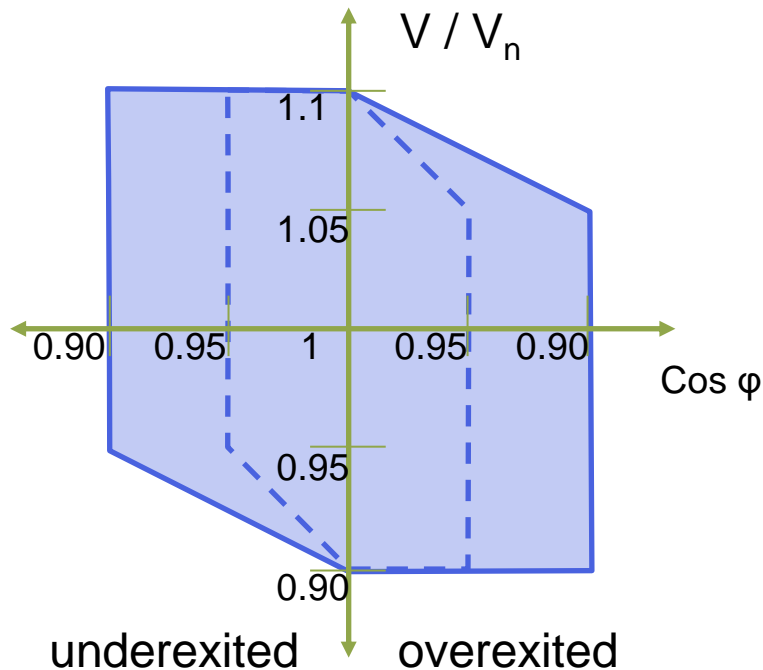
Definitions: power generating system (PGS) and power generating unit (PGU)



Abbreviations

- V_n = Nominal voltage [V]
- Q = reactive power [VAR]
- P = active power [W]
- S = apparent power [kVA]
- $S_{E_{max}}$ = maximum apparent power of the unit (e.g. one PV-Inverter)
- $S_{A_{max}}$ = maximum apparent power of the entire plant (plant with several PV-inverters)
- $P_{E_{max}}$ = maximum active power of the unit (e.g. one PV-Inverter)
- $P_{A_{max}}$ = maximum active power of the entire plant (plant with several PV-inverters)
- Low voltage grid < 1 kV
- Medium voltage grid 1 kV < 60 kV

Reactive power generation in low voltage grids



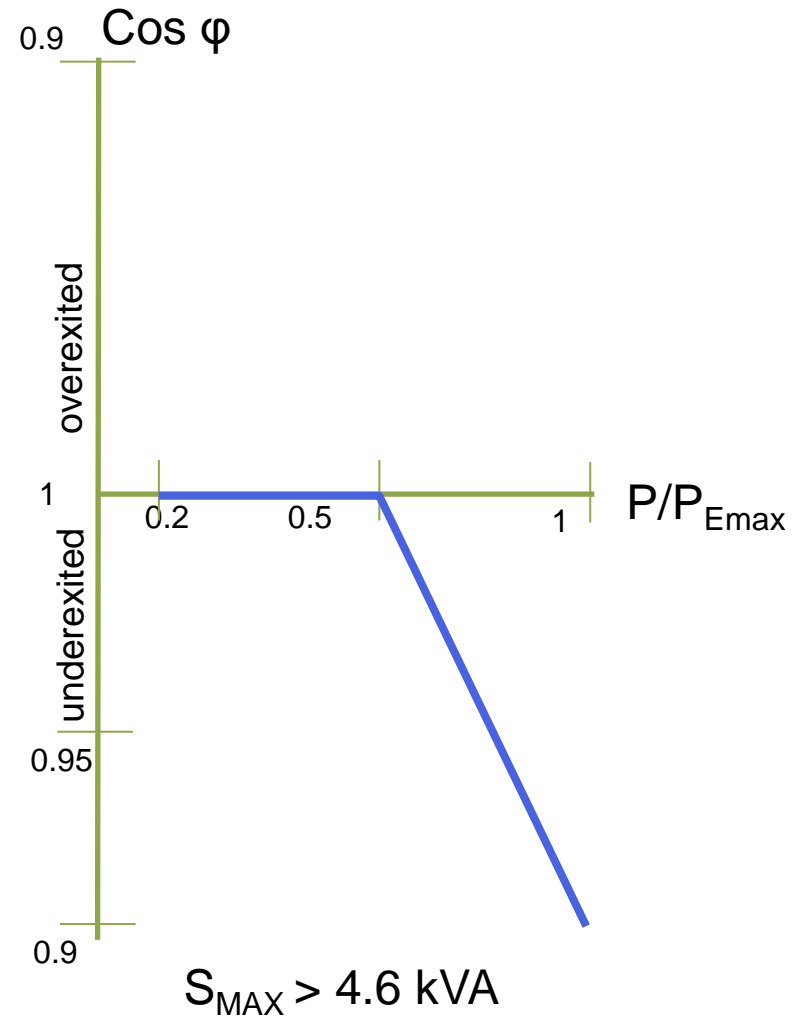
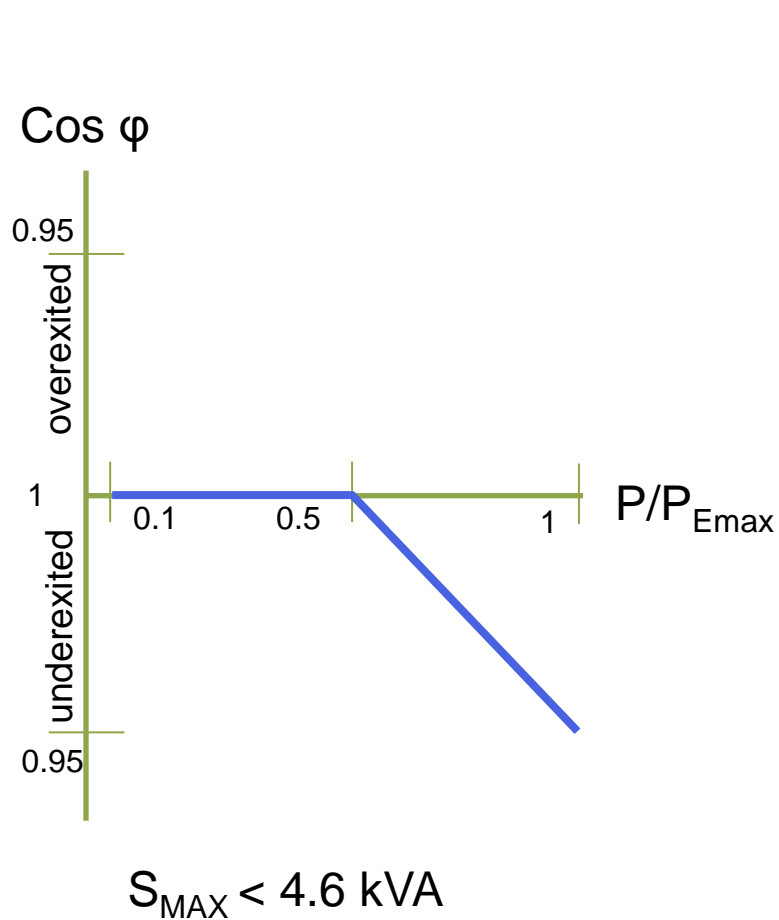
— $S_{MAX} > 4.6 \text{ kVA}$

- - - $S_{MAX} < 4.6 \text{ kVA}$

- Every PV plant has to fulfill the reactive power requirements. Reactive power can be provided via:
 - Q(P) active power
 - Q(V) grid connection point voltage
 - Constant $\cos \varphi$

Source: E VDE-AR-N 4105:2017-07

Rooftop PV reactive power generation Q(P) in low voltage grid



Source: E VDE-AR-N 4105:2017-07

Exercise: Rooftop PV reactive power generation Q(P) in low voltage grid

- Assume a rooftop PV controls reactive power via Q(P) mode. The PV feeds in the maximum active power of 100 kW.

Questions/tasks:

- At which $\cos \phi$ shall the PV plant operate?
- Calculate the reactive power Q and the apparent power S?

P = 100 kW

$\cos \phi = ?$

Q = ?

S = ?

$$S = \frac{P}{\cos \phi}$$

$$P = S \times \cos \phi$$

$$Q = \sqrt{S^2 - P^2}$$

$$Q = \sqrt{S^2 - (S \cos \phi)^2}$$

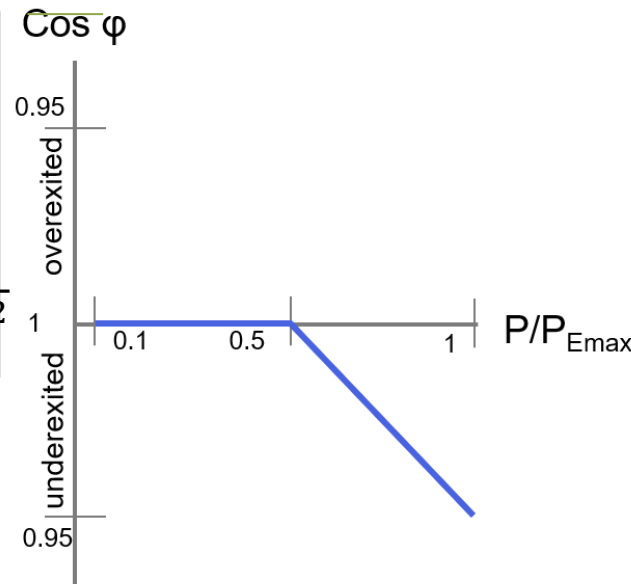
S = apparent power (VA)

P = active power (W)

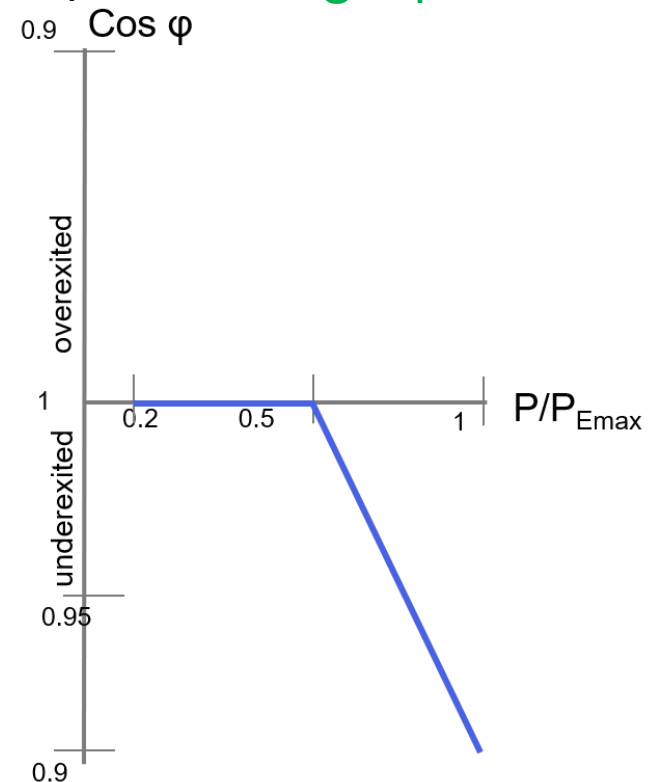
Q = reactive power (VAR)

$\cos \phi$ = phase angle

Source: E VDE-AR-N 4105:2017-07

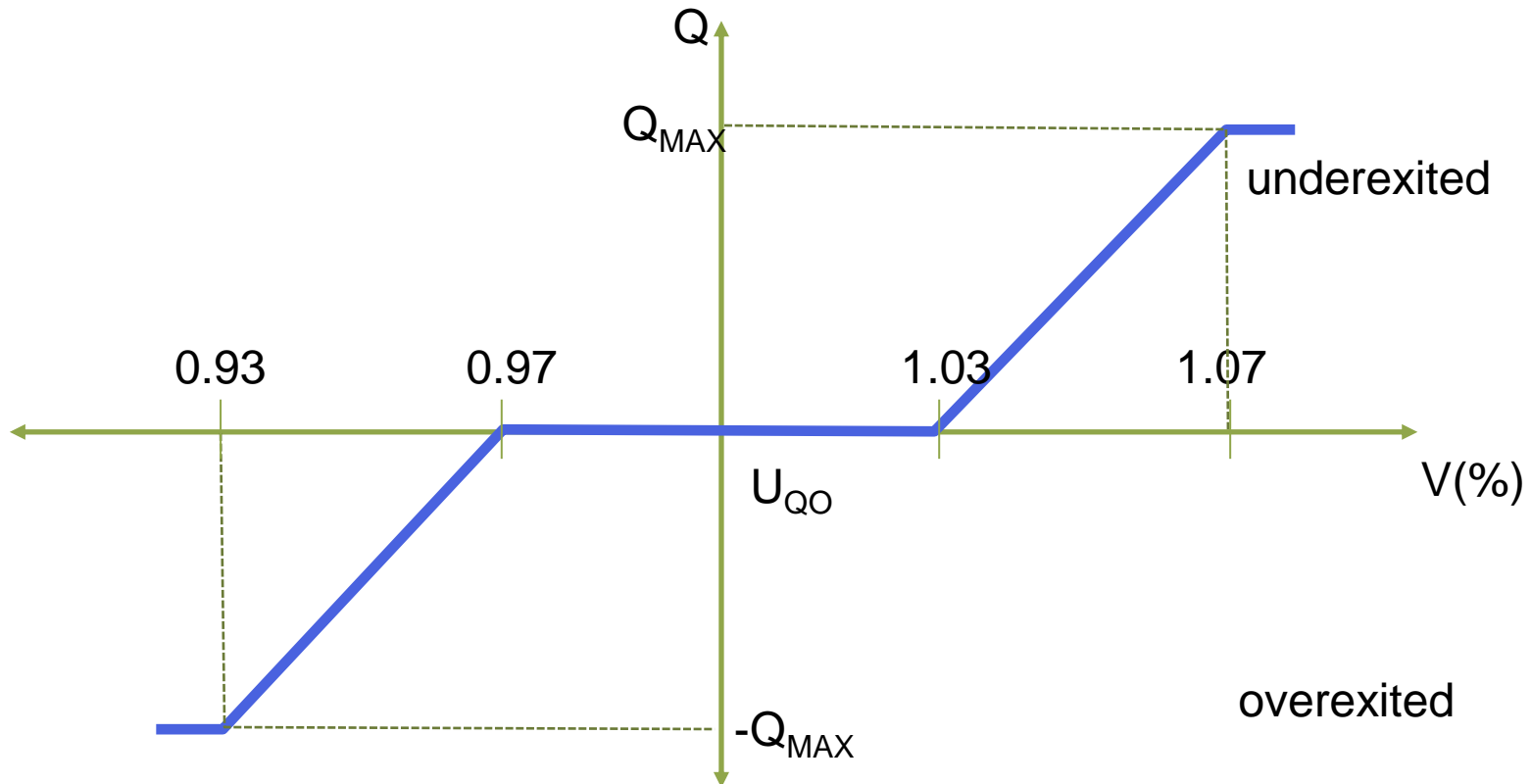


$S_{MAX} < 4.6$ kVA



$S_{MAX} > 4.6$ kVA

Rooftop PV reactive power generation $Q(V)$ in low voltage grid



U_{Q0} = reference voltage 230 V

Exercise: Rooftop PV reactive power generation Q(V) in low voltage grid

- Assume a rooftop PV with controls reactive power via Q(V) mode and the maximum $\cos \varphi$ is 0.9. The active power output is 200 kW and the voltage at the grid connection point is 7% smaller than the reference voltage. **Questions/tasks:**
 - Shall it operate overexcited or underexcited?
 - Calculate the reactive power Q.

$P = 200 \text{ kW}$
 $\cos \varphi = 0.90$
 $Q = ? \text{ kVAR}$
 $S = ? \text{ kVA}$

$$S = \frac{P}{\cos \varphi}$$

$$P = S \times \cos \varphi$$

$$Q = \sqrt{S^2 - P^2}$$

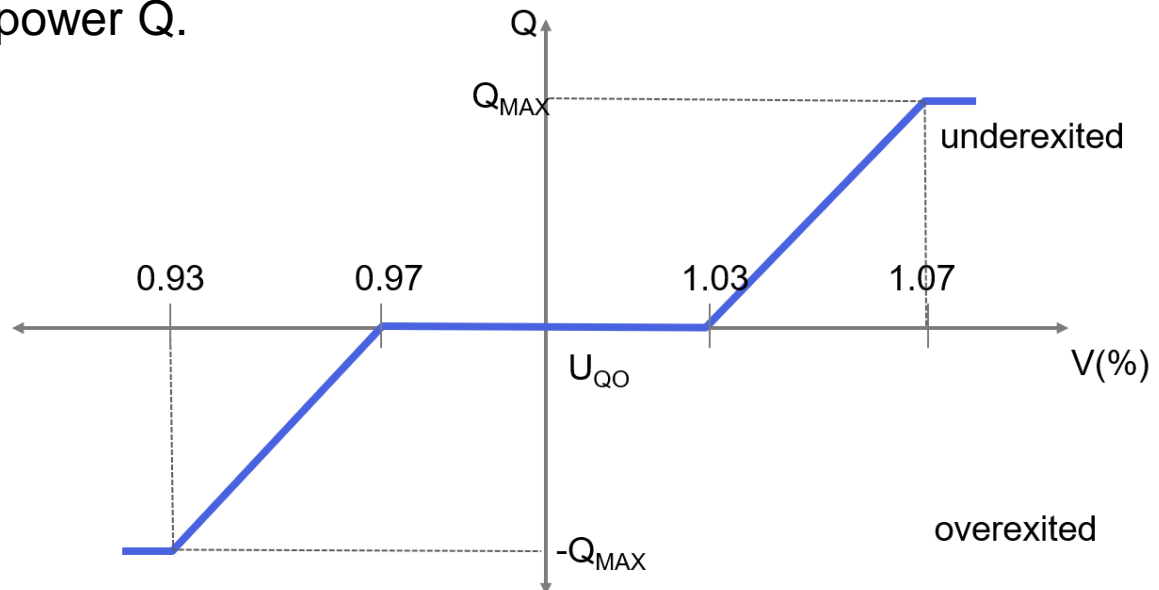
$$Q = \sqrt{S^2 - (S \cos \varphi)^2}$$

S = apparent power (VA)

P = active power (W)

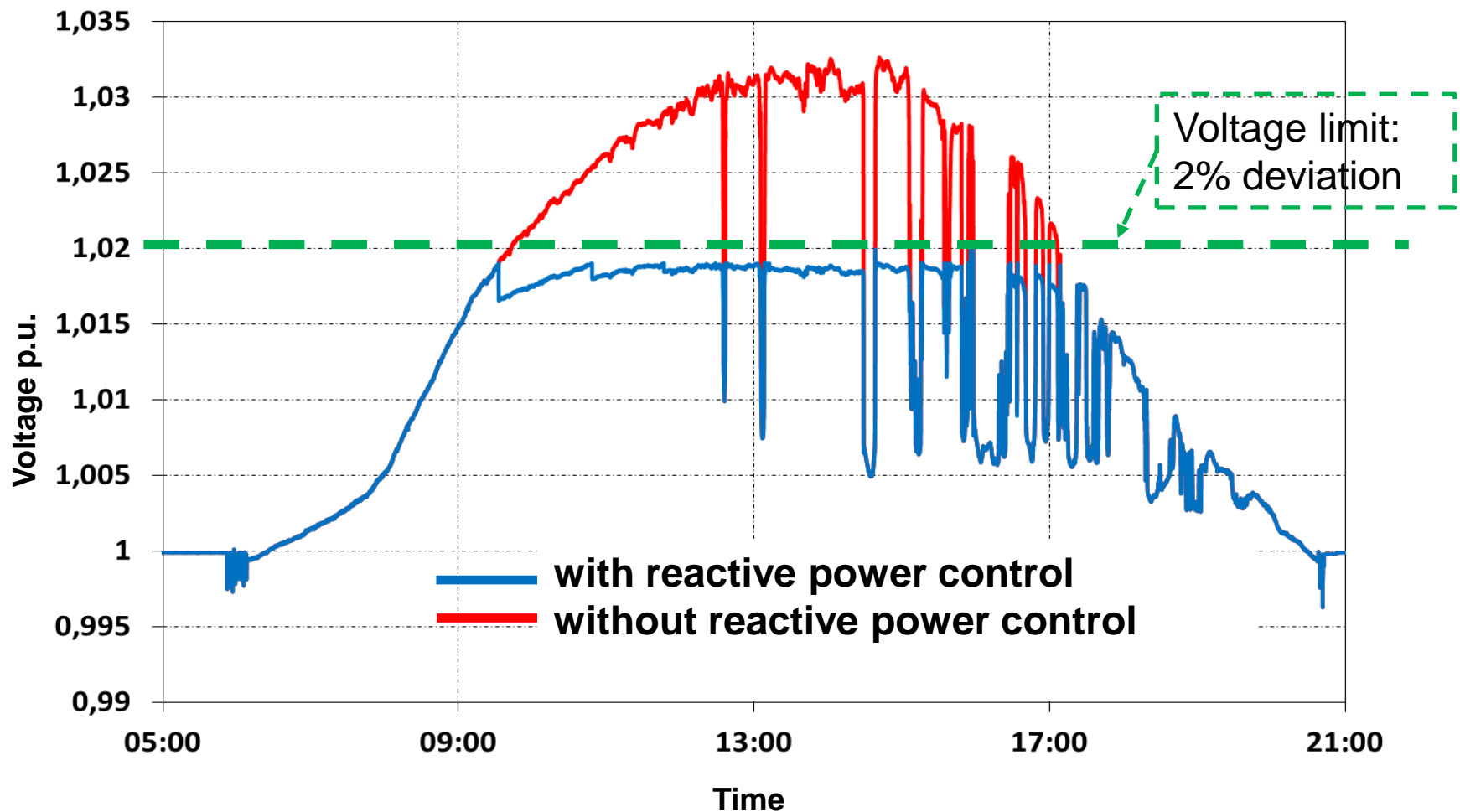
Q = reactive power (VAR)

$\cos \varphi$ = phase angle



U_{Q0} = reference voltage 230 V

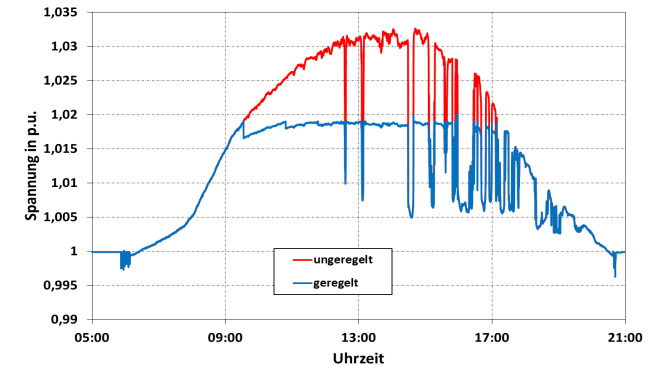
Example: Voltage control with and without reactive power generation by a PV farm



Source: Energiequelle; Source: Prof. Dr. Ing. Rolf Witzmann, TU München,

Exercise: PV farm voltage analysis

- Analyse the previous chart together with your neighbour. Assume a 30 kV voltage grid (30 kV = 1 p.u.)
- Questions:
 1. How high is the maximum voltage that the grid operator accepts at the grid connection point? _____
 2. Which maximum voltage occurs at the grid connection point when the PV farm is in operation
 - a. With PV inverter reactive power control _____
 - b. Without PV inverter reactive power control _____
 3. How low is the minimum voltage at the grid connection point? _____



Active power limitation and cos phi control of multi megawatt PV farm during one year

- Active power limitation (blue, left scale)
- cos phi control (green, right scale)

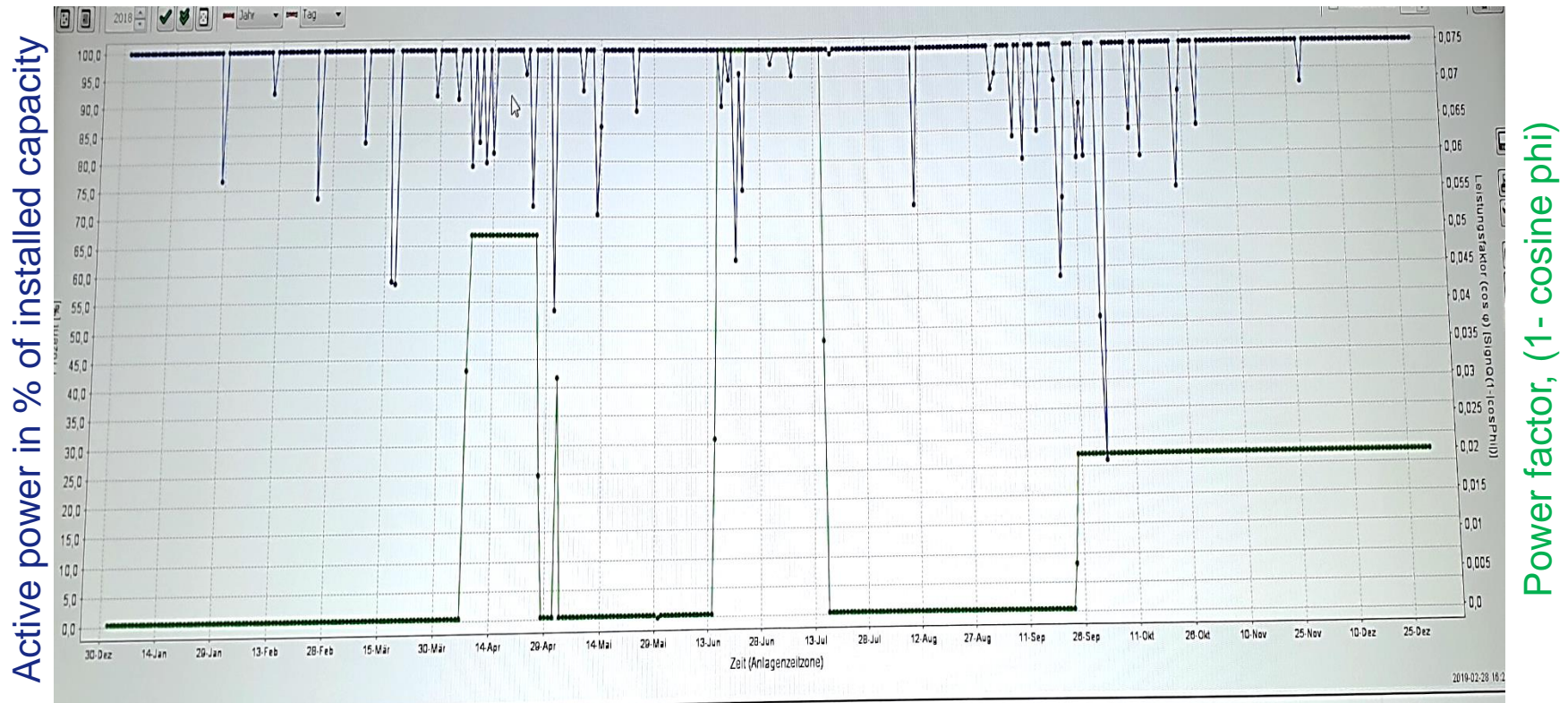
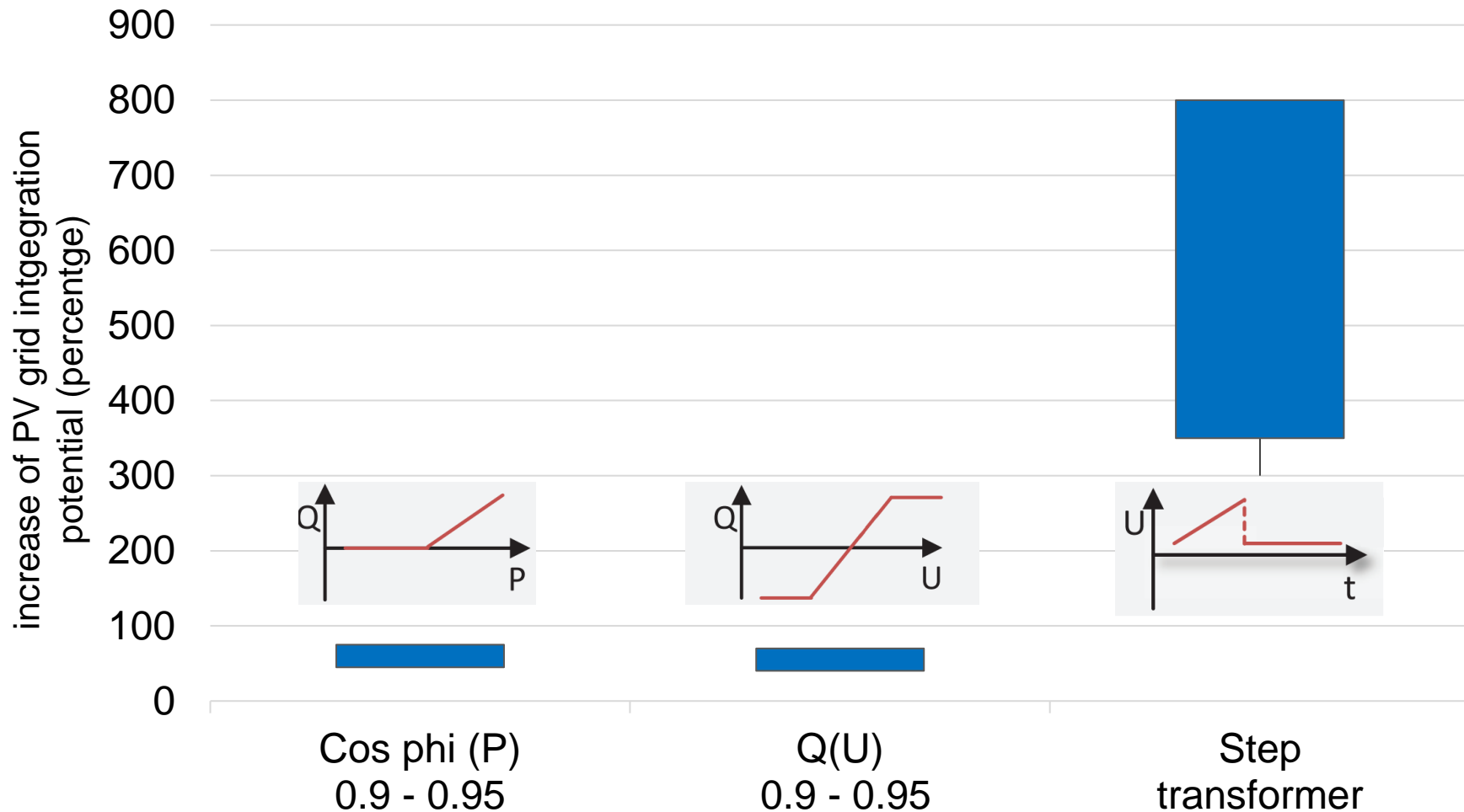


Foto: Tiedemann

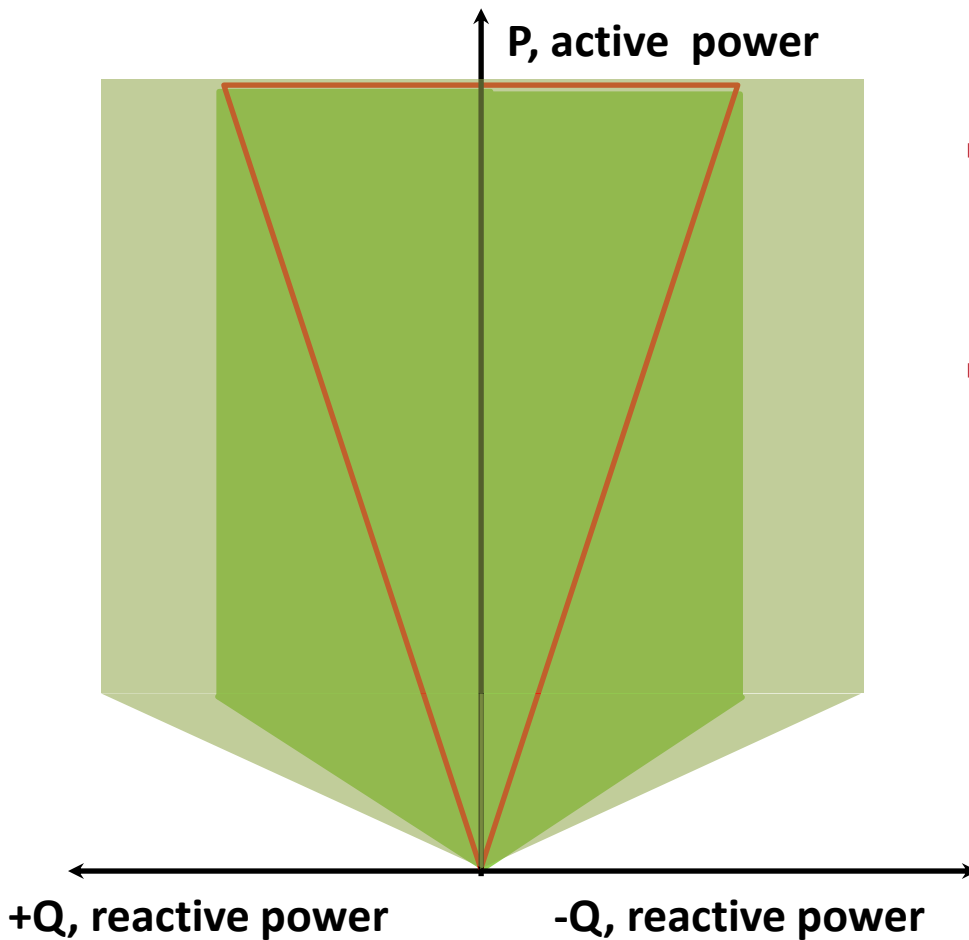
- Reactive power injection allows to control line voltage at the point of common coupling to some extent. The higher the voltage the more effective reactive power is because R/X ratio decreases with voltage.
- Reactive power injection allows stable network operation with high shares of renewables.
- Reactive power injection allows to install more distributed generation capacity without immediate network reinforcement or curtailment of peak generation.
- **But**, reactive power injection increases the current injected into the network. Increased currents create additional losses in the network: $P_{\text{loss}} = I^2 \cdot R_{\text{line}}$.

	Overhead line	Underground cable
Low voltage	$R \approx 0.3\text{-}0.5 \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 2\text{-}3$	$R \approx \dots 0.1 \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 5$
Medium voltage	$R \approx 0.3\text{-}0.5 \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 1\text{-}2$	$R \approx 0.1 \dots \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 4$
High voltage	$R \approx 0.2\text{-}0.3 \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 0.1\text{-}0.3$	$R \approx 0.1 \dots \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 0.1 \dots$
Extra High voltage	$R \approx 0.2\text{-}0.3 \text{ } \Omega/\text{km}$, $R/X \approx 0.1$	

Relative increase of PV grid integration potential of technical measures in low voltage distribution grids



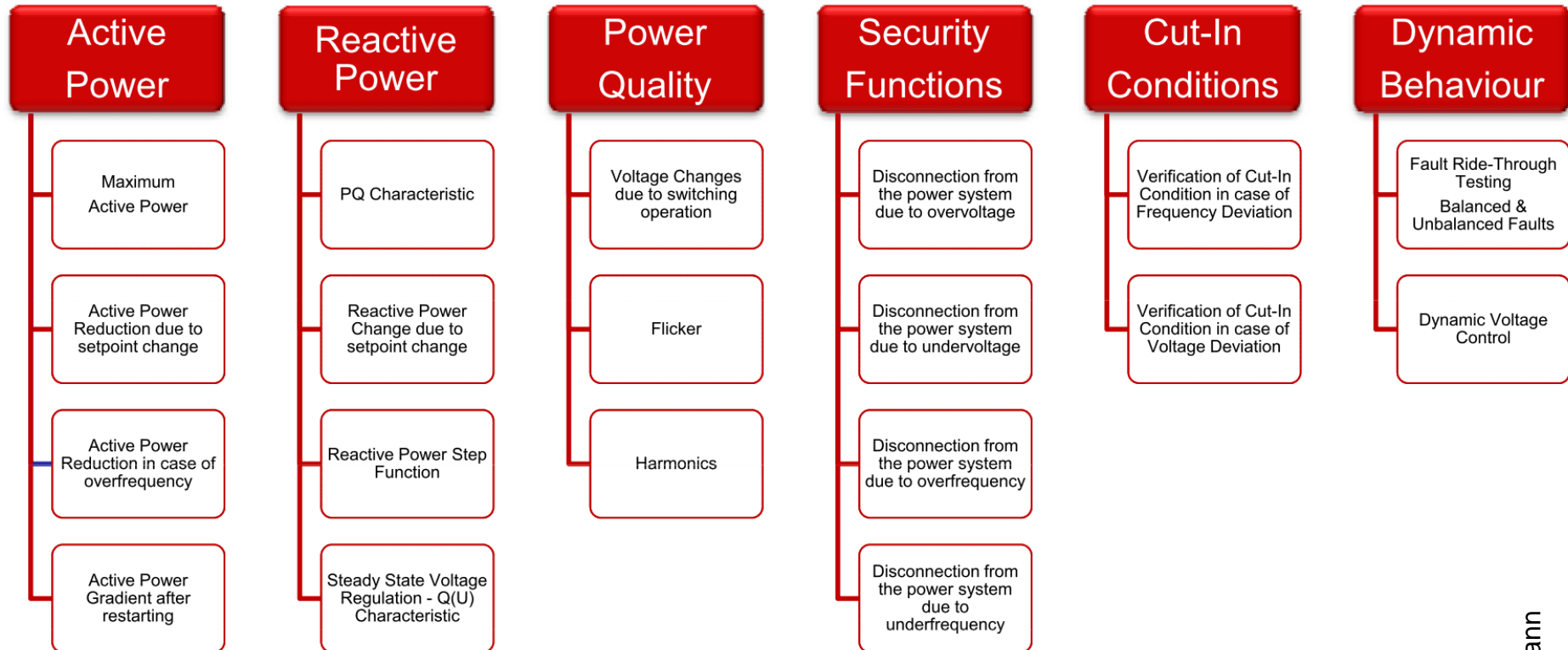
Grid codes: different reactive power capability



- Characteristic with constant amount of reactive power (red)
- Standard characteristic for connection to the medium voltage grid, variable amount of reactive power (green)
- Standard characteristic for connection to high voltage grid with variable amount of reactive power (grey)

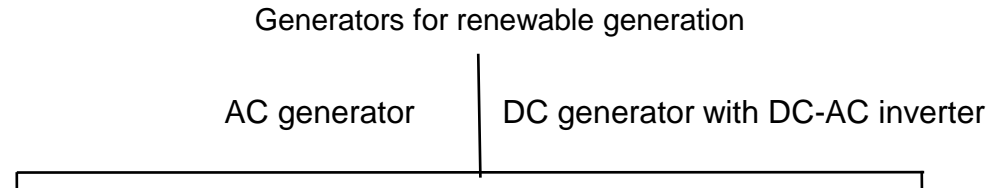
Source: Energiequelle

Grid code requirements overview

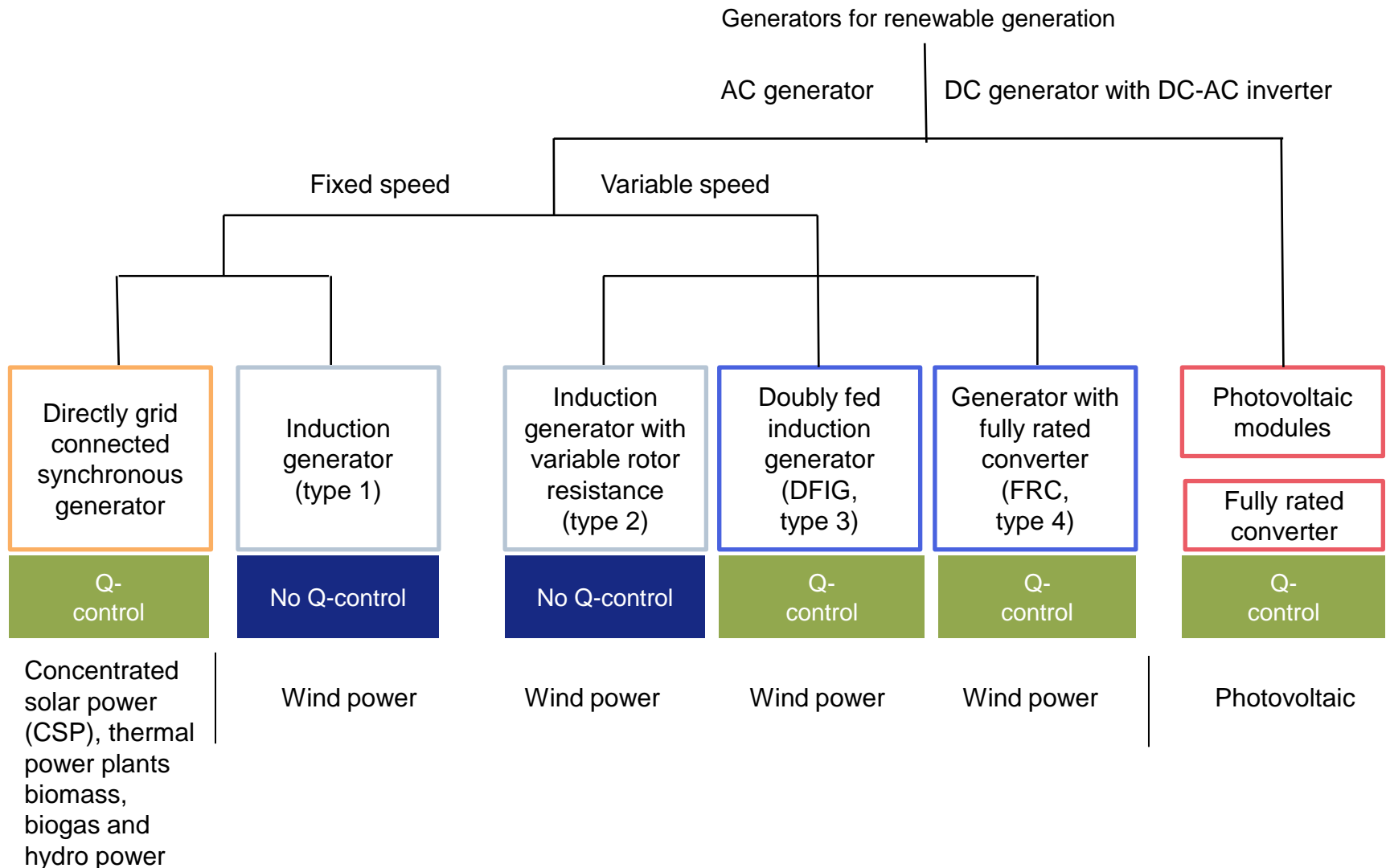


Source: Neumann

Generator concepts and voltage control - overview



Generator concepts and voltage control - overview



Protection settings



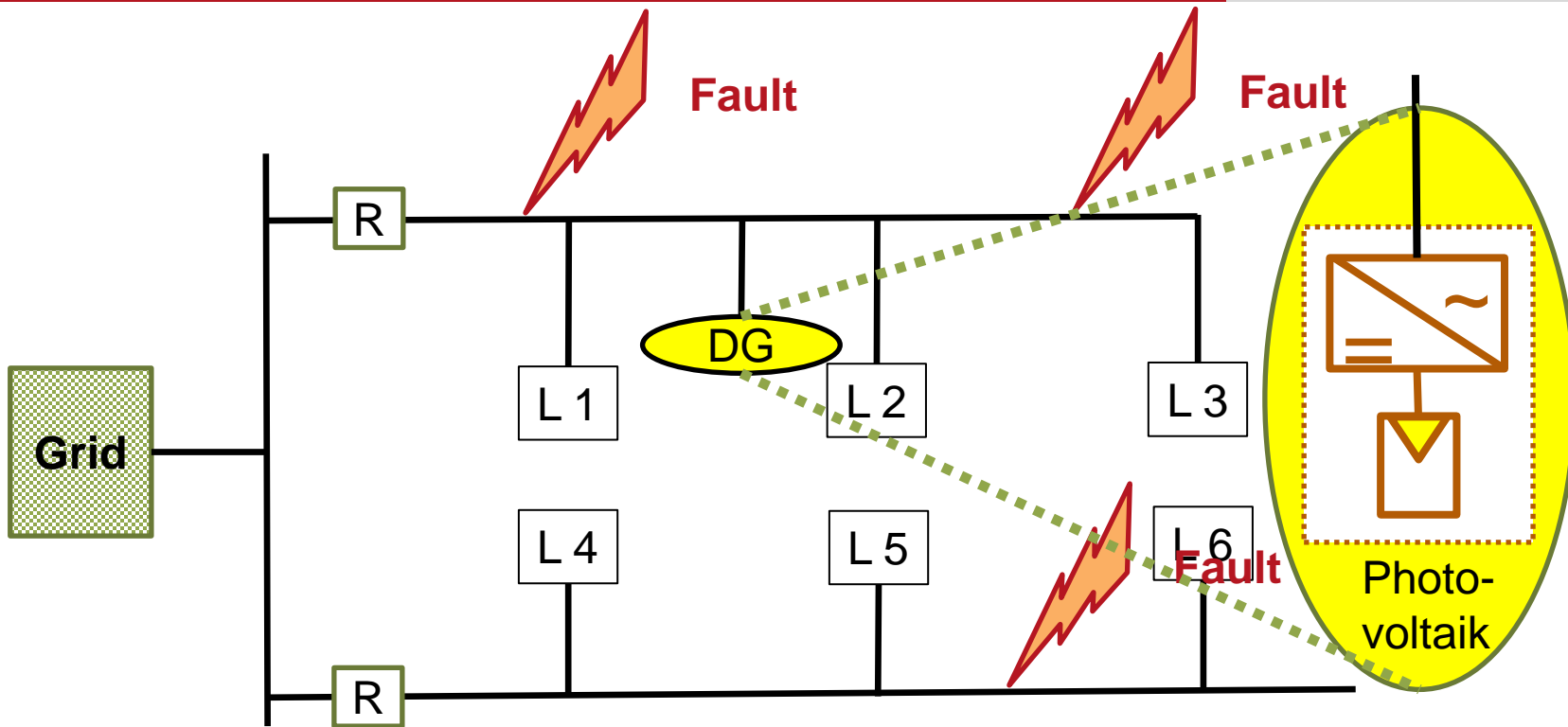
Learning objectives

After this lecture you will be able to:

- Explaining the role of possible PV roof top related changes to the protection settings of an existing power system as
 - blinding of protection
 - impact on distance protection
 - fault ride through
 - undesired islanding
 - false reclosing
 - false tripping
- Prepare for the future operation of electrical grids with higher levels of PV penetration

Learning objectives

Three typical protection situations with distributed generation



R = Protection device with relay

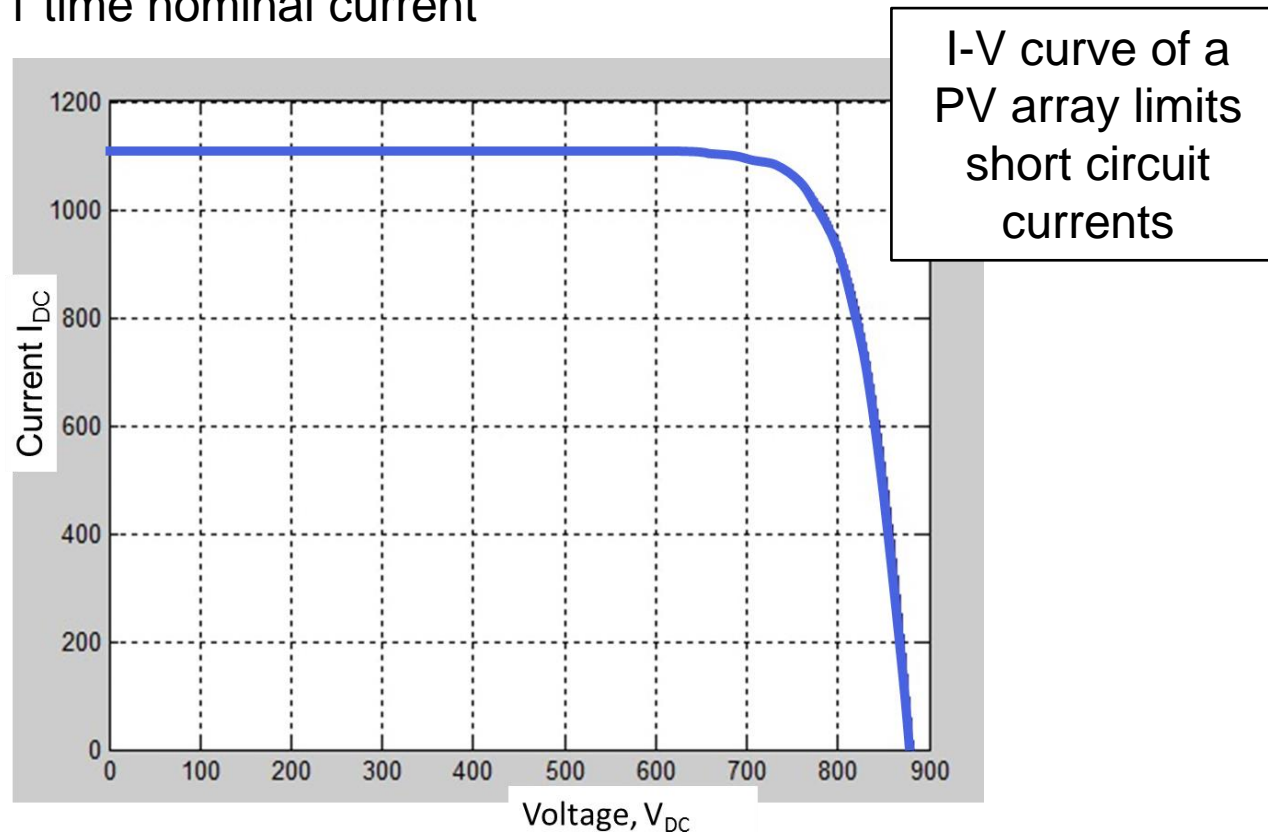
DG = Distributed generation

L = Load

T = Transformer

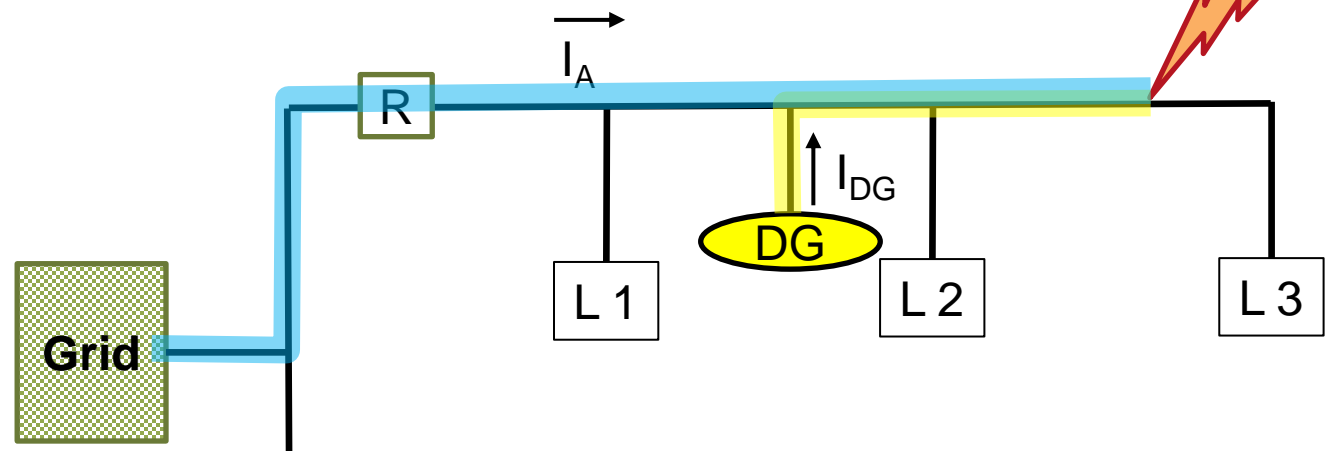
Short circuit power provision

- Synchronous generator: 8 times nominal current
- Asynchronous generator: 6 times nominal current
- Inverter: 1 time nominal current



Effect of distributed generation: Blinding of protection

- In case of a fault: Short circuit current is not only drawn from the transmission grid to trigger the protection devices. Short circuit current can also flow from distributed generation to the fault.
→ protection relay does not open the circuit because current set point might not be reached.
- Options for solutions:
 - Limit short circuit current of distributed generation or zero current mode
 - Disconnect distributed generation in case of voltage drop (but, this causes conflicts with fault ride through requirement)



Impact on distance protection

$$V_A = I_A Z_A + (I_A + I_{DG}) Z_B$$

$$\frac{V_A}{I_A} = Z_A + \left(1 + \frac{I_{DG}}{I_A}\right) Z_B$$

$$\text{with } K = \left(\frac{I_{DG}}{I_A}\right)$$

$$Z_{Relay} = Z_A + (1 + K) Z_B$$

- In case of a fault behind "B" the impedance seen by the distance relay R is greater than that which actually occurs.
- Relay R sees an impedance Z_{Relay} that is equal to the relation of the current I_{DG} (total infeed by distributed generation) and the current I_A (current via the relay)
- → Sensitivity of relay is reduced

DG = distributed generation

I = Current

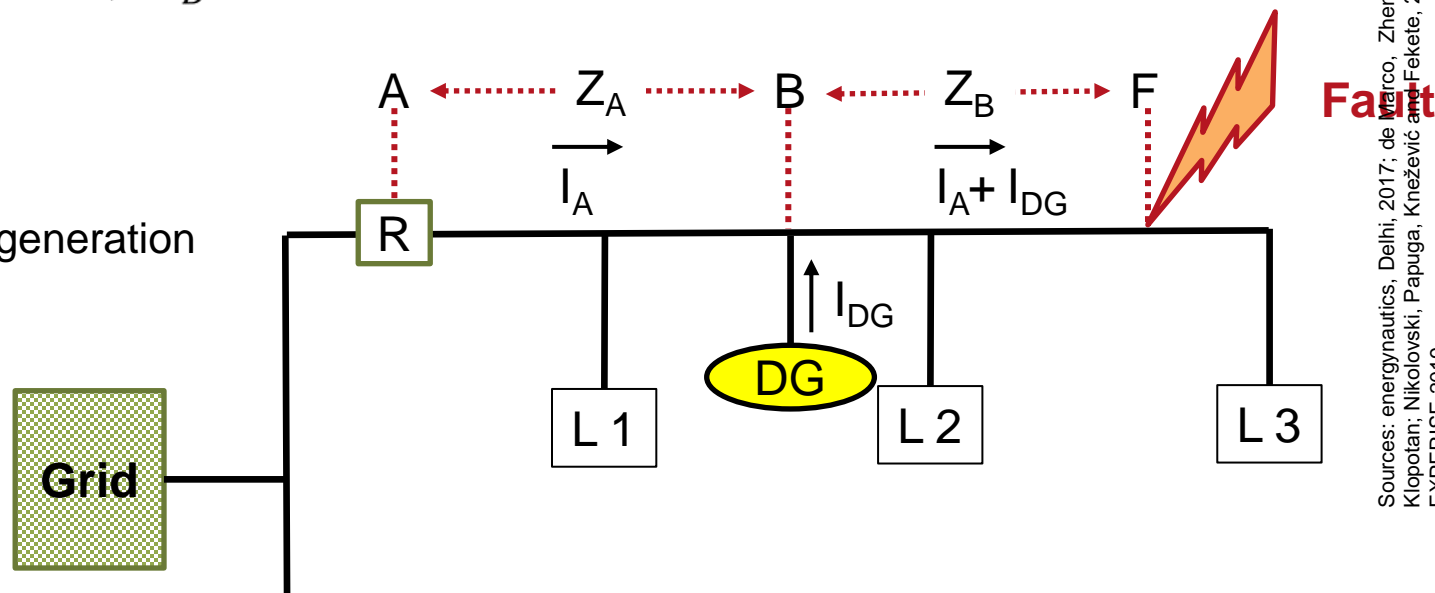
Z = Impedance

V = Voltage

R = Relay

L = Load

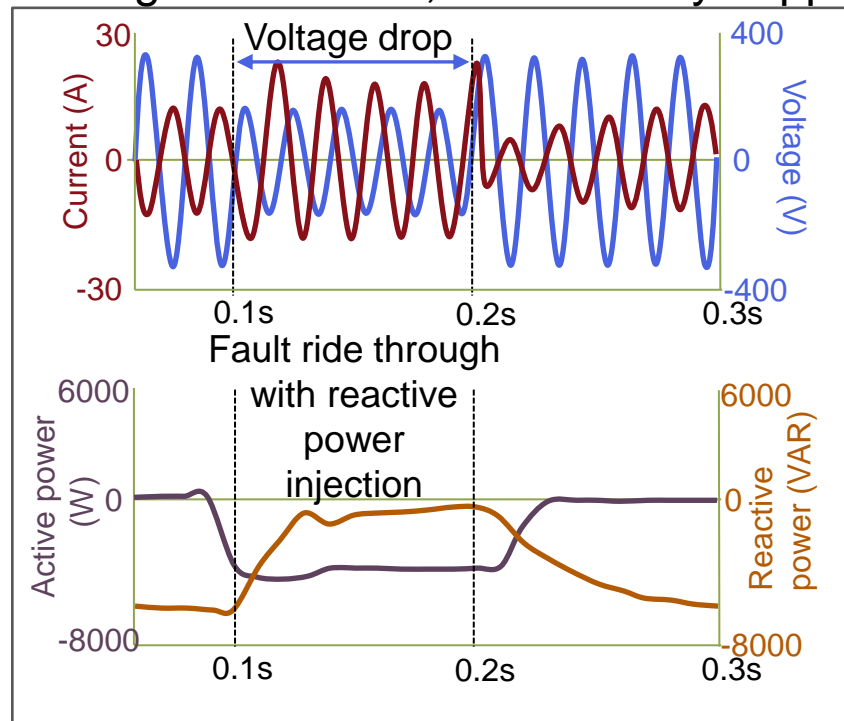
F = Fault



Grid support with Fault Ride Through (FRT)

- Case A: Reactive current injection reduces the voltage drop in case of short circuits on transmission level → Inverters can support the grid by stabilising the voltage after a fault
- Case B: With FRT in its “zero current mode”, PV inverters will curtail the current after a voltage drop, but they stay ready to resume generation immediately once voltage is restored, thus actively supporting the grid, even on LV level

Case A

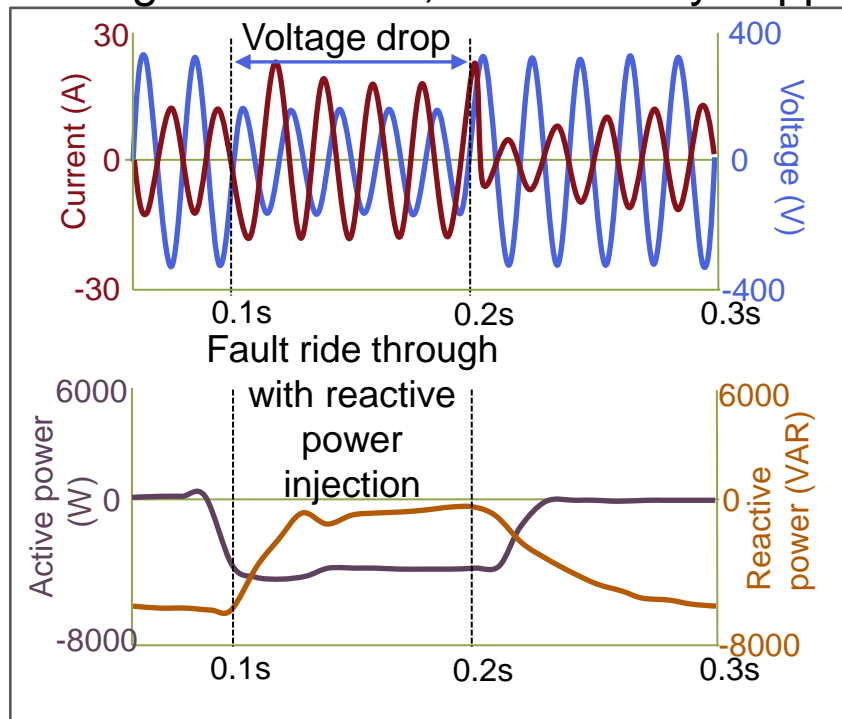


Case C: disconnection and very late synchronisation after fault clearance

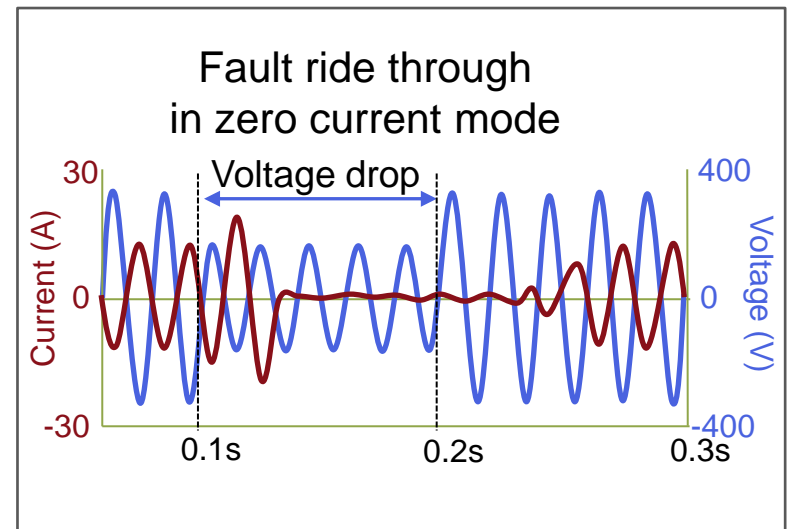
Grid support with Fault Ride Through (FRT)

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Case A



Case B

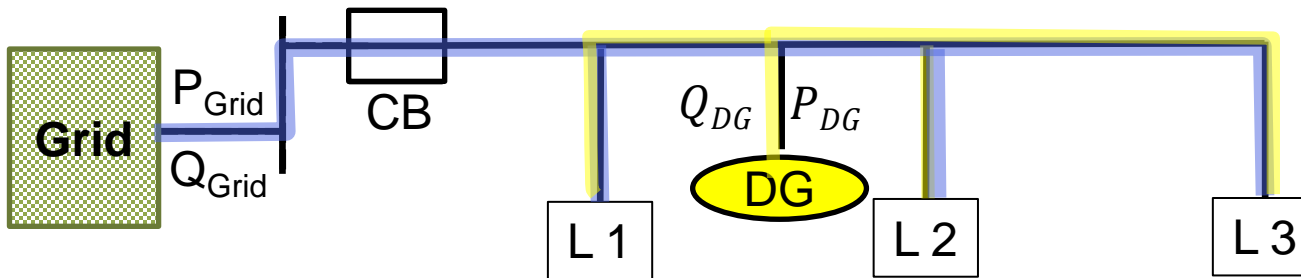


Case C: disconnection and very late synchronisation after fault clearance

Undesired islanding definition

- Definition according to Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 1547:
 - A condition in which a portion of an Area Electric Power System (EPS) is energized solely by one or more Local EPSs through the associated point of common coupling (PCC) while that portion of the Area EPS is electrically separated from the rest of the Area EPS [5].
- Islanding is an undesirable operating condition because it causes risk
 - to the utility system (e.g. during maintenance)
 - safety of the utility customers, and
 - to the distributed generation (DG) itself.
- Anti-islanding is important if DG is large enough to allow a close balance between DG capacity and the local load

Undesired islanding



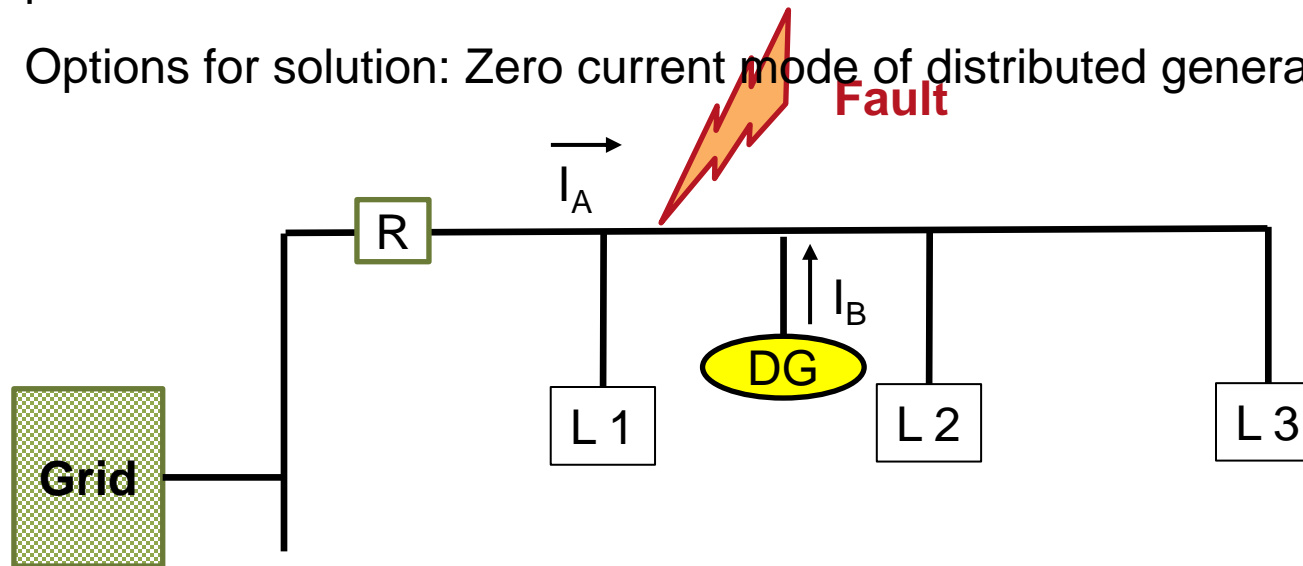
- Normal operation: $P_{Grid} = P_{DG} - (P_{Load 1} + P_{Load 2} + P_{Load 3})$
- In case the grid circuit braker opens (e.g. due to maintenance) power flow from the grid to the load is interrupted. The loads absorb the distributed generation power completely.
- Passive and active islanding detection measures exist

DG = Distributed generation
 CB = Circuit braker
 L = Load

P = Active power
 Q = Reactive power

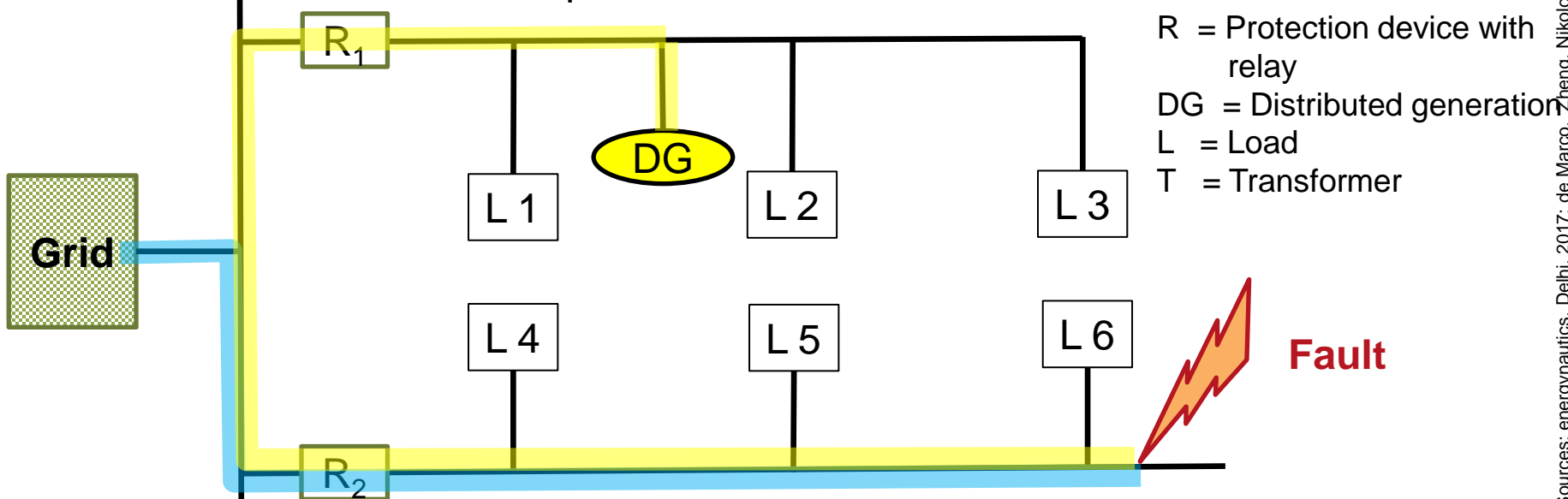
False reclosing

- The purpose of reclosers R is to detect a fault. It opens the circuit to stop an arc and can close automatically to minimise supply interruptions.
- If distributed generation continues to feed in during the reclosing sequence the arc might continue. The fault could seem permanent.
- Options for solution: Zero current mode of distributed generation



False tripping

- Adjacent feeder might contribute to short circuit provision and short circuit current might exceed settings of relay of healthy feeder
- Healthy feeder relay R_1 might trip before the fault is cleared by relay R_2 of the disturbed feeder
- Options: adapt fault clearing time of relays or directional overcurrent protection



Thank you!

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